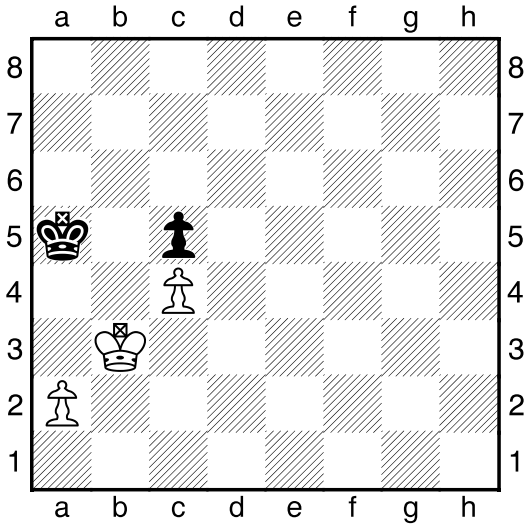
The Gambit

Nebraska State Chess Archives



White to play & win
Hint-Solution in 9 moves

Original position from *Chess Review*.
Diagram position provided by
Robert Woodworth

November-December 2010

Gambit Editor**:** Kent Nelson

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Letter from NSCA President
Gary Marks

Tournament chess is coming alive in Lincoln. I would like to thank Father Conner, Kent Nelson and John Watson for helping me with getting some chess tournaments going in Lincoln. I would like to thank Ben Ryan, Mike Gooch, Drew Thyden, and others in Omaha for keeping tournament chess going strong in Omaha.

With the Cornhusker State Games coming this summer my term as NSCA President will expire. If we have anyone interested in becoming a candidate for NSCA President, please contact Ben Ryan. I am not seeking re-election, but I'm willing to continue to serve NSCA in any way possible, including President if need be.

Mike Gooch and Drew Thyden have started an Elementary School Chess League in Omaha. I would like to thank them for this venture and wish them great success. I would like to do this in Lincoln. If we have any chess clubs in the Lincoln area interested in forming a league, please contact me or Father Brian Conner. Father Conner can be reached at the North American Martyrs School here in Lincoln. We are willing to set up leagues at all schools regardless of level.

Mike Gooch has a list of NSCA tournaments which need to be scheduled and run by May. I believe this includes the Amateur Open, the State Class Championships, and the Great Plains Open. If you are interested in running these events, please contact Mike Gooch or tournament clearing house coordinator, Ben Ryan.

Finally having the *Gambit* placed on line or snail mailed as a hard copy issue must be decided at the Cornhusker State Games during the NSCA meeting this summer. Please contact Kent Nelson with your input so we can have a concrete proposal hashed out before the NSCA Annual Meeting.

Thank you!

Gary T Marks NSCA President

From Kent's Corner

Once again, I'm delighted to present another issue of the *Gambit* to you. I'm very pleased to introduce a new *Gambit* contributor in the person of **John Tomas**. John is a Nebraska chess legend, who has written the first, of three installments of his articles, titled, *Prologue in Heaven, I.* I found his article to be a very valuable source of Nebraska chess history. I'm sure you'll share this view after reading John's work.

John Watson has written a piece about Magnus Carlsen. John's energy and efforts he spends on behalf of Nebraska chess is very much appreciated. Nebraska chess has a gem in the person of John Watson.

Special thanks to **Alex Golubow** and **Bob Woodworth** for their articles. Bob has written 2 articles and provided the front cover diagram and Alex has written another installment of a unique chess opening. As editor, its nice to count on Alex and Bob for material and they have always come through for me.

After a long absence from *Gambit* contributions, please welcome back, **David Jenkins** and **Tony Dutiel.** David wrote an article about his favorite opening system as White. Next time you play David, (with him having the white pieces) watch out and get ready to have a tough game. After reviewing Tony's game submissions and inputting his tournament results, the next time you face Tony OTB, I would recommend you have your "A" game ready or else!

Mike Gooch and **Ben Ryan** have been work horses in organizing and directing numerous tournaments in Nebraska. We are so lucky to have these talented individuals working for us and a special thanks to them for all they do.

As referenced in Gary's letter from the NSCA President, some decisions will need to be made about the future of the *Gambit.* If you have any questions or opinions about having the *Gambit* posted on-line or continued to have it snail mailed, albeit hard copies, or a combination of both, please let me know. Finally my thanks to the NSCA board members and the *Gambit* readership for all the positive feedback I've received about my *Gambit* work. Please keep them coming!

Kent Nelson-Ed

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News and Notes

1. The solution to the front cover diagram will be in the next issue of the *Gambit,* due out in April 2011.

2. **January 15th - Tournament and Chess Lecture.**
I would also like to make an early mention of a special January event. The format will be changed for January, to be a Quad. This means all entries are split into groups of 4 players by rating and all 4 players play each other, 1 game each. The biggest advantage of this is that all 3 of your opponents will have ratings similar to yours (usually within 200pts), so all 3 games should be highly competitive. In addition to the new tournament format, there will be a 2 hour chess lecture by Nebraska resident **IM John Watson** from 5:30 to 7:30. John has invited everyone to submit games that they would like to have reviewed. Depending on the number of games submitted, some or all will be analyzed by John Watson. The lecture is free to all participants in the Jan 15th events, with a $15 fee for attendees that do not play in the tournament ($5 for non-playing parents). *From Ben Ryan.*

3. Kudos to the NSCA board members for their active involvement in organizing and directing Nebraska chess tournaments. NSCA memberships have increased. Next time you see NSCA board members, **Gary Marks, Ben Ryan, Jeff Solheim, Bob Woodworth, Mike Gooch** and others, please thank them for the time and energy they spend promoting Nebraska chess.

4. Players to watch. Keep an eye out for **Brandon Li.** I recently observed Brandon play his chess coach, Joe Knapp, during the first round of the Plus Score Open. It was a difficult and hard fought game from both players with Brandon winning a tough ending. Despite the pressure of Joe's play, including the rating difference of 400 points, Brandon kept his cool. I was impressed by Brandon's composure.

5. Like trivia? On page 25, there is a picture of **Sam Richman**. What was he best known for? The first five readers with the correct answer receives a $5.00 free gift card at Burger King from yours truly.

6. Seasons Greetings everyone! Have a safe holiday and make the year 2011 a great one chess wise and otherwise.

The Crown Prince

by

John Watson

It is almost universally believed that Sven Magnus Carlsen (most commonly know as Magnus Carlsen) will, sooner or later, become the World Champion of chess. Whether that happens is always up to circumstance as well as raw playing strength. There is the luck of the draw, and of opening preparation (such luck is more important in super-short matches like the 4-game qualifiers in effect next year); and factors like health and the form have their place. The format of the qualifying cycle can be critical; in fact, as of today it looks like Carlsen might retire from the current cycle given some objections that he has to it.

Nevertheless, since he is ranked #1 in the world and just turning 20 at the end of this month, and having recently reached the second-highest rating in history, there's hardly ever been a more likely candidate for winning the crown at some point. However, I have never been able to pin down why Carlsen has been so dominant, and others have trouble even describing his style. His games don't seem to reveal any strong patterns. The Danish author Lars Bo Hansen has said that players in the future will have to have a certain set of attributes to be at the top, more so than players of the past. Let me list those and see what fits for Carlsen:

1. *The ability to adapt according to the opponent. Psychology will play an increasing role.*

It's noteworthy that Carlsen talks about how he thinks he has the advantage if he has a good score against someone (.e.g., Topalov, a 2800 player against whom he has won the last 5 decisive games); in other respects, he seems to play the board without dramatic changes of style according to opponent. But this may be a subtle decision which is inherent in his opening choices. The game with Ponomariov below appears to be an example.

2 ***The ability to play a breadth of openings***

This applies in the extreme. He's like Hikaru Nakamura in being able to switch from one system to another, seemingly regardless of whether it's his first time playing it. However, he doesn't usually indulge in irregular and speculative lines, as Hikaru does. Recently Carlsen got killed by Adams as Black playing 1 e4 g6 2 d4 Nf6 3 e5 Nh5. I don't think we'll see him playing such things often!

3 ***Using strategic rather than tactical openings*****.**

Again, this is about as true as it gets. No one would call Carlsen weak at tactics, quite the opposite, but he prefers to start slowly and complicate if the circumstances call for it.

4 ***The distinction between playing Black and White won't be as important as it traditionally has been*****.**

For most players, this is probably true as we gravitate towards more complex openings. But Carlsen has a higher difference in performance ratings between White and Black than his contemporaries. In other words, the gap between his White and Black results is greater than would be expected from the usual differences between colors.

5 ***Players will take more calculated risks*****.**

This seems to be true on the whole, and stems from faster time controls. Carlsen is playing such high-level opponents that he doesn't throw the dice much, but will try to create complications fairly late in the game in positions where they aren't totally justified, probably feeling that he can hold the draw if his opponent manages to play perfectly. This works more often than not. Of the world's top players, I can only think of Topalov, Shirov, and Grischuk who consciously speculate on a regular basis, so maybe the jury is still out upon this prediction.

6 ***Players will need more energy and stamina*****.**

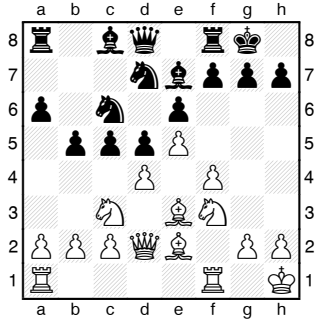
This seems to be true throughout modern chess history. The prime examples are Fischer and Kasparov, and now, with less defined openings and middlegames, the players seem to be confronted with difficult positions that don't resolve themselves for many moves, if at all. Carlsen is top-level in energy and stamina: he is not only young, but plays several sports and can concentrate seemingly non-stop for hours.

Strangely, most players and writers don't try to describe Carlsen's style. But in Wikipedia, I see this: " Kasparov has repeatedly stated that Carlsen has a positional style, similar to that of past world champions such as Anatoly Karpov, Jose Capablanca, and Vassily Smyslov." I think I generally agree with that, but to me, it looks more like a maneuvering style, covering the squares and waiting for opportunities whether he is playing with greater space or a superior structure or not. His openings haven't been exceptional, but somehow he ends up making one less mistake than his opponent.

Here are a few games I've chosen from this year, with limited analysis. Many of Carlsen's games are long drawn out affairs, but I've limited myself to shorter ones chosen for their interest and even entertainment value.

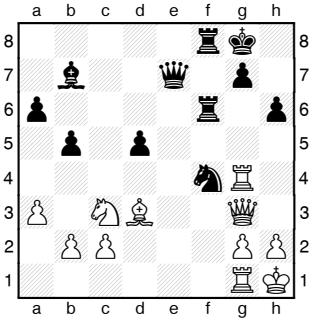
Karjakin,Sergey (2720) - Carlsen,Magnus (2810) [C11], Corus A Wijk aan Zee 2010

1 e4 e6 This move surprised everyone. But Carlsen constantly expands his repertoire, and even played Alekhine's Defence several times against elite opponents. **2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Be3 Be7** A popular move. Black waits upon moves like ...a6 and ...cxd4 until he sees how White develops. **8 Qd2** [8 Be2 0–0 9 0–0 a6 10 a3 b5 is another standard position.] **8 ..0–0 9 Be2** [One point of Black's move order is that 9 0–0–0?! runs into 9 ..c4! , when Black's queenside pawn attack with ...b5-b4 is hard to hold up.] **9 ..a6 10 0–0 b5 11 Kh1**



We see the simple underlying themes: White is trying to combine ideas of (a) consolidating his centre, with c3 in some cases (the idea Nd1 is extremely common, with Nf2 or Ne3 following later; (b) controlling dark squares, with dxc5. After ...f6, exf6; moves such as Qf2 and bringing a rook to d1 are often useful; (c) launching some sort of kingside attack, either by f5 or Bd3 and bringing the queen to that sector. Black will normally combine some of these ideas: (a) develop his queenside with ...Qb6/...Qc7 and ...Bb7; (b) expand on the queenside with ...b4 and perhaps ...a5-a4 and ...Ba6 (hopefully in one jump); (c) play ...f6 and either hold the position or, hopefully, play a timely ...fxe5 (which tends to follow either ...cxd4 or Whie's dxe5; (d) liquidate with ...cxd4 and simplify on that square with ...Bc5 or play ...Nc5 -e4.And that's just a start! **11 ..Qc7** [11 ..b4 has also been played. 12 Na4 , it may not be worth it, even if ultimately Black can hold the balance with accurate play.] **12 a3 Bb7 13 Rad1 Rac8 14 Qe1** [White can also preempt ...cxd4 by 14 dxc5 Bxc5 15 Nd4 , when 15 ..Na5 is interesting.] **14 ..cxd4 15 Nxd4 Nxd4 16 Bxd4 Bc5** [16 ..Nb6 17 f5! exf5 18 Rxf5 gets White's attack underway, although the position is unclear.] **17 Qh4 Bxd4 18 Rxd4 f6!** The thematic French counterstrike, destroying White's center. **19 Bd3?!** [But 19 exf6 Rxf6 is fine for Black*(*or *19 ..Nxf6 20 Qh3 Rce8)*] **19 ..h6! 20 exf6** [20 Qh3 Nc5 doesn't seem to improve anything.] **20 ..Rxf6** Planning to double rooks. Black has the initiative and stands better. **21 f5?** Too ambitious. White had to play

more slowly with, for example, [21 Qg3] **21 ..Rcf8** [21 ..Nc5 was perhaps even better, but there's no reason to complicate things.] **22 Rg1 Nc5! 23 fxe6 Nxe6 24 Rg4 Nf4** Compare the scope of the two sides' pieces. And ...d4 is always in the air. **25 Qg3 Qe7**

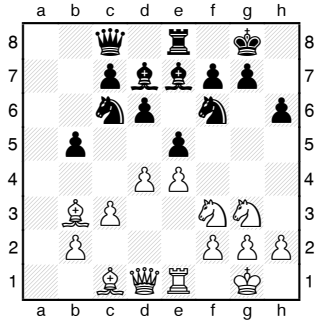


26 Rxf4 Giving up material. The problem is that ...d4 was threatened, for example, [26 h3 d4 27 Nb1 h5 28 Rg5 Re6 29 Nd2 Nxd3 30 cxd3 Re3] **26 ..Rxf4 27 Ne2!** Now White can blockade d4 and leave Black's bad bishop on b7. This is a good practical choice, but can't make up for the material deficit, and Carlsen's technique is near-perfect, as always: **27 ..Rf1 28 Nd4 Rxg1+ 29 Kxg1 Re8 30 h4 Qe1+ 31 Kh2 Qxg3+ 32 Kxg3 Kf7 33 Kf2 Kf6 34 g3 Bc8 35 c3 Bg4 36 Bc2 g5 37 hxg5+ hxg5 38 Bb3 Ke5 39 Bc2 Rf8+ 40 Kg2 Bd7 41 Nf3+ Kf6 42 Bb3 g4 43 Nd4 Ke5 44 Bc2 a5 45 Bd1 Ke4 0–1**

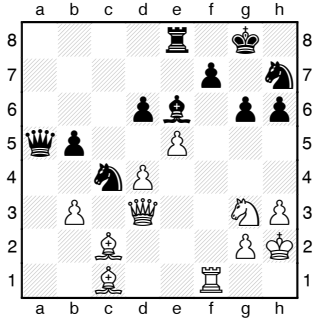
Carlsen,Magnus (2826) - Topalov,Veselin (2803) [C84] 3rd Pearl Spring Nanjing CHN (5), 24.10.2010

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0–0 Be7 6 d3 This has become very popular over the past few years, to avoid Ruy Lopez main lines like the Marshall Attack. It fits Carlsen's style of playing many openings in a relatively non-critical fashion. **6 ..b5 7 Bb3 d6** Now Black is ready for ...Na5, so 8 c3

sometimes follows. **8 a4 Rb8** [8 ..Na5 9 Ba2 b4 is an option.] **9 axb5 axb5 10 Nbd2 0–0 11 Re1** Preparing a possible Nf1–e3 or Nf1–g3. **11 ..Bd7** [A slightly more active line is 11 ..Bb7 with the idea ...Ra8 and at some point ...d5; but then Black can't exchange a knight on f5 if necessary.] **12 c3 Ra8 13 Rxa8 Qxa8 14 d4** [14 Nh4 Na5!? *(14 ..g6)* 15 Bc2 g6 16 Nf1 b4! has the idea 17 cxb4 Nc6] **14 ..h6 15 Nf1 Re8 16 Ng3 Qc8**



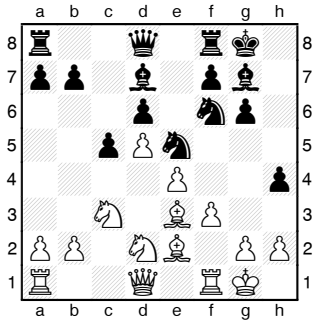
Up to this point both sides' moves have been pretty routine, but here Black might have wanted to be a little more active, e.g., [16 ..Qa6 17 Nh4 Na5 18 Bc2 b4!?] **17 Nh4** A knight on f5 will be a real irritation. **17 ..Bf8 18 Ng6** But now White gets the bishop pair. **18 ..Na5 19 Nxf8 Rxf8 20 Bc2 Re8 21 f4** White has this pawn break, but Black has nothing equivalent. **21 ..Bg4?!** [21 ..Qd8 with the idea ...Qe7 protects the kingside without giving up the center.] **22 Qd3 exf4 23 Bxf4 Nc4 24 Bc1** Suddenly Black's game is in serious straits. It's not simply the attack (the Bc2/Qd3 battery aims at h7), but playing against two bishops in any kind of simplified position is extremely difficult. **24 ..c5 25 Rf1** now e5 and Rxf6 must be attended to. **25 ..cxd4 26 cxd4 Qd8 27 h3 Be6 28 b3 Qa5?** This tactical idea doesn't work, but [28 ..Na5 29 Qxb5 was depressing.] **29 Kh2!** [29 bxc4 Bxc4 30 Qd1 Bxf1 is unclear.] **29 ..Nh7** [29 ..Nb6 30 e5 dxe5 31 Rxf6 gxf6 32 Bxh6! f5 33 Nxf5 mates shortly.] **30 e5 g6**



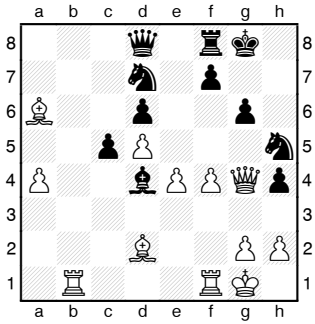
31 d5! Nxe5 32 dxe6! [32 dxe6 Nxd3 33 exf7+ Kf8 34 Bxh6+ Ke7 35 fxe8Q+ Kxe8 36 Bxd3 is a slaughter.] **1–0.** It didn't really seem that Black did much wrong.

Ponomariov,R (2733) - Carlsen,M (2813) [E81]
4th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (6), 20.06.2010

In this game Carlsen plays rather wildly, which may be an example of adjusting to his opponent's generally slow, careful positional style. **1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7** Carlsen hasn't been seen much on the Black side of the King's Indian since he was a great deal younger. This was undoubtedly a surprise to Ponomariov. **4 e4 d6 5 f3 0–0 6 Nge2 Nbd7 7 Be3 c5 8 d5 Ne5 9 Ng3 h5** [9 ..e6 is the main alternative here.] **10 Be2 h4 11 Nf1 e6 12 Nd2** [12 f4 is premature due to 12 ..Neg4! 13 Bxg4 Nxg4 14 Qxg4 exd5 and 15...d4.] **12 ..exd5 13 cxd5 Bd7 14 0–0**



14 ..b5? Or '?!', because even though it is unsound, but makes White play accurately. A sacrifice very unlike Carlsen's normal style. **15 Nxb5 Bxb5 16 Bxb5 Rb8 17 a4 Nh5!?** [17 ..h3 18 g3 Qa5 was more careful but really, Black is a pawn down for nothing.; 17 ..a6 18 Bxa6 Rxb2 19 Rb1 Rxb1 20 Qxb1 doesn't help Black's cause.] **18 f4! Nd7 19 Qg4 a6!? 20 Bxa6** [20 Bxd7 Nf6 21 Qxh4 Nxd7 isn't so clear.] **20 ..Rxb2 21 Rab1 Rxd2!?** Trying to confuse matters with another objectively inferior, un-Carlsen-like move. But otherwise he feels that White will cruise to victory effortlessly. **22 Bxd2 Bd4+**



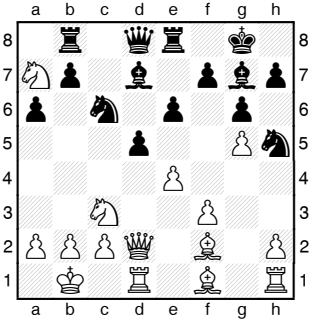
23 Rf2?? The risk (bluff?) pays off. White is so worried about a tactic with ...Ng3+ that he decides to avoid working it all out. But now Black will get plenty of play and the initiative turns. The key line runs 23 Kh1 Ndf6 24 Qf3 Ng3+ 25 hxg3 hxg3 26 Be1! *(26 Be3? Nxe4!* forces *27 Bc8!)* 26 ..Kg7 27 Bxg3 Rh8+ 28 Bh2 probably looked too risky to Ponomariov, but a Korchnoi, Karpov, Topalov, or Anand would surely have worked it out to a large advantage, e.g., 28 ..Rh6! *(28 ..Nxe4 29 g3! Nd2 30 Qe2 Nxb1 31 Rxb1)* 29 e5! dxe5 *(29 ..Ne4 30 g3 Nd2 31 Qg2)* 30 fxe5 Bxe5 31 g3 Qd6 32 a5!! Qxa6 *(32 ..Bxg3 33 Rb6 Rxh2+ 34 Kg1 Qxd5 35 Qxd5 Nxd5 36 Rb3 Be5 37 Bc4)* 33 Rb6 Qxa5 34 Rxf6 and wins.] **23 ..Bxf2+ 24 Kxf2 Ndf6 25 Qf3 Qe8! 26 e5?** Panic. [26 Bb5 Nxe4+ 27 Ke3! Nxd2+ 28 Kxd2 wasn't so bad (about equal).] **26 ..Qxa4 27 exf6 Qxa6 28 Bc3 Qc8?!** [28 ..Qc4! would have

won material, since f4 hangs, and 29 g3 Nxf6! with the idea 30 Bxf6? Qc2+ is excellent for Black.] **29 Kg1?** [29 f5! Qxf5 30 Qxf5 gxf5 31 Rb6 Rd8 32 Kf3 favors Black, but not by that much.] **29 ..Qf5 30 Rf1 Re8 31 Ba1 Ra8 32 Qe3 Kh7** [32 ..h3!; and 32 ..Nxf4! were also very strong. Carlsen prefers to avoid complications when he is confident of having a won game.] **33 Bb2 Rb8 34 Bc1** [34 Bc3 Rb3! 35 Qd2 h3 36 g3 Nxf6] **34 ..Rb1** White can hardly make a useful move, and ...Nxf6, ...c4, and ...Qxd5 are all strong ideas. **35 Qe8 Qxd5 36 f5 gxf5 37 Qe3 Qd4 38 Qxd4 cxd4 39 Bg5 Rxf1+ 40 Kxf1 h3 41 gxh3 Kg6 42 Bh4 Nf4 43 Bg3 Kg5 44 Bf2 Ne6 45 Ke2 f4 46 Kf3 d3 47 h4+ Kf5 48 Bb6 Nc5 49 h5 d2 50 Ke2 Ne4 0–1**

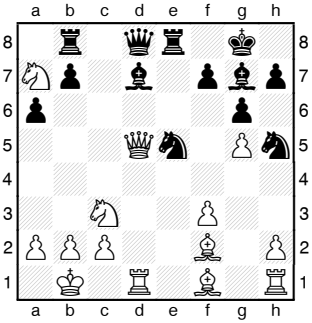
Nisipeanu,LD (2672) - Carlsen,Magnus (2813) [B76]
4th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (5), 19.06.2010

Here's a win with a more conventional-looking opening, but the game has a mysterious quality to me. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6** Carlsen experimented for a time with the Dragon and had good results, but seems to have dropped it. He's been using 1...e5 a lot this year. **6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 Nc6 8 Qd2 0–0 9 0–0–0 d5 10 Kb1** A safe and fashionable way to try to keep an edge. At first, it seems that White succeeds. **10 ..Rb8** This keeps more pieces on the board than most continuations. An old trick is [10 ..dxe4?? 11 Nxc6 and White wins a piece: 11 ..Qxd2 12 Nxe7+] **11 Ndb5** Hitting a7. Nisipeanu is not only a fine player and theoretical wizard, he is also a major tactician. So it seems a bit strange that Carlsen would play into this line. In the end, he manages to turn it into a type of positional battle! **11 ..a6 12 Na7** White has calculated that the knight is in no danger here, and it creates threats. **12 ..e6** [Again 12 ..dxe4?? loses to 13 Nxc6 , and; 12 ..Nxa7 13 Bxa7 Ra8 14 Bf2 e6 15 exd5 Nxd5 16 Nxd5 exd5 17 Qxd5 Qxd5 18 Rxd5 Be6 19 Rd1 leaves Black short of compensation.] **13 g4!** Doubtless preparation so far. **13 ..Re8 14 g5!?** [14 Qf2 Ra8 15 h4 is an ambitious attempt, allowing White's c-pawns to be

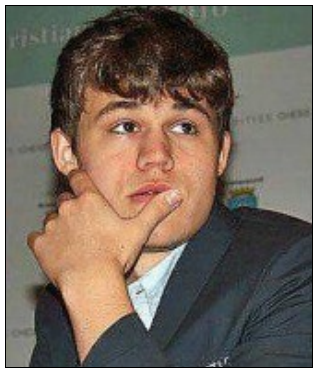
doubled after 15 ..Nxa7 16 Bxa7 Nd7 (with the idea ...b6) 17 Be3 Bxc3 18 bxc3 and h5 follows. I think this was the way to play.] **14 ..Nh5 15 Bf2!?** To protect the bishop in the case of exd5/...exd5; but 15 Na4 is a solid way to control some queenside dark squares. Black still gets good play if White captures on d5: 15 exd5 exd5 16 Nxd5 Be6; Here was the last chance to capture the c8 bishop: 15 Nxc8 , but Carlsen probably intended 15 ..d4!] **15 ..Bd7!**



Suddenly a theme develops: maybe White's knight on a7 can't be captured, but it also can't move! But surely White will have active play by capturing the d-pawn? **16 exd5 exd5 17 Qxd5** [17 Nxd5 Be6 is still good, for example, 18 c4 Qd7 19 Ka1 Ne5 20 f4 Ng4] **17 ..Ne5**



18 Qb3 White's pawn weaknesses and the position of the knight on a7 means that Black is happy to exchange queens, for example, [18 h4 Qc7 (with the idea ...Nf4) 19 Qd6 Qxd6 20 Rxd6 Bf5!; 18 Ne4 Be6! 19 Qxd8 Rbxd8 20 Rxd8 Rxd8 21 Be2 Nf4 22 Bd1 Nc4 23 Nf6+ (forced) 23 ..Bxf6 24 gxf6 Nh3! 25 Bc5 *(25 Bg3 Ra8)* 25 ..Rd5 26 b4 Rd2! 27 Kc1 Nf4 and White is paralysed.] **18 ..Qxg5 19 Ne4 Qf4 20 Be2 Be6 21 Qa3 Nc4** All Carlsen's pieces come to the right squares by some kind of magic, and suddenly White's seemingly aggressive position has degenerated into a normal one where he still has that stupid a7 knight to take care of. **22 Bxc4 Bxc4 23 Nd6 Bf8 24 Rd4 Qe5! 25 Rxc4 Bxd6 26 Qd3 Bf8! 27 a4 Rbd8** It's become rather simple. **28 Qb3 Qd5 29 Rc3 Qd2** [29 ..Qxb3 30 Rxb3 Re2 was also good.] **30 Be3 Qe2 31 Bb6??** and White resigns, because 31...Rd1+ 32 Rxd1 Qxd1+ and ...Re1 wins on the spot. But[31 Bc1 Qg2 32 Rc7 Re6 33 Re1 Ng7! 34 Rxe6 Nxe6 with multiple threats, including ...Rd1, also wins easily. Again, it's not obvious where the game turned around. Previous theory and experience hadn't indicated that there was even an issue with the knight on a7, but Carlsen seemed to have his eye on it throughout, with no intention of winning it; he simply interpreted it as a useless piece! So this is a superb example of how to see things globally. Of course, that's easier when you are brilliant enough to control all of the local tactics! **0–1**



20-year-old **Magnus Carlsen**

Prologue in Heaven, I

by

John Tomas

On the 20th of October of 1961, I first pushed a pawn in anger over a chessboard. That's fifty years in which I have been more or less involved with the game (that would be a good title for these reminiscences, but it's already taken).

At the time, I had no idea of what a half-century might mean. I recall thinking that I would be sort of neat to live to see the turn of the century and the new millennium, but that was all.

What do fifty years in chess history mean? For some perspective, we can look to the chess world of 1909-1911 – fifty years before I started playing chess...

1. **Akiba Rubinstein** was in the midst of his meteoric rise to the top of the rankings (and ranked as #2 in the world).
2. **Emanuel Lasker** was ranked #1. He was World Champion and had been for 17 years. The previous year he had retained his title in a match against the Viennese player Karl Schlechter in one of the most hotly debated matches in chess history.
3. **Jose Raoul Capablanca**, who would become World Champion in 1921, had just had his first European success with first place at San Sebastian. He entered the lists as #3 in the world.
4. **Alexander Alekhine**, who would seize the title from Capablanca in their titanic 1927 match, was 18 years old and ranked 15th in the world.

Now, let's look the chess world in 1961, when I started playing.

1. **Mikhail Botvinnik** defeated World Champion Mikhail Tal in their return match for the world championship. He is ranked #4 in the world. I feel confident in saying that Botvinnik, who had an illustrious career as an electrical engineer, is the last amateur player to hold the world championship. In addition, at 50 years old, he is the oldest player ever to win a championship.

2. **Mikhail M. Tal**, 24 years old, to that point the youngest player ever to hold the World Championship, loses the return match to Botvinnik but immediately wins the extremely strong Bled International in September of that year.

3. **Robert James Fischer**, 18 years old, who would win the world championship in 1972, wins his fourth USA title and then goes on to finish an undefeated second at Bled, scoring 3½ out of 4 against the frighteningly strong Soviet contingent. The result, along with his overwhelming victory in the 1962 Stockholm Interzonal (+13, undefeated) marks him as a likely future world champion.

Perhaps, to many of my readers, both periods are the stuff of legend. When I started playing, I was aware of the history around the turn of the century, and to me, demi-gods had walked the earth.

How about chess in Nebraska during these years? After reading the articles on Nebraska Chess History in Jack Spence's *Nebraska Chess Bulletin and Midwest Chess News 1947-1959*, it is not hard to not come to the conclusion that outside of Lincoln and Omaha, organized chess simply didn't exist.

North Platte native B.E. Ellsworth starts his history of local chess in 1935, and B. E. Weare, from Stamford, recorded informal gatherings in Southwest Nebraska in various towns starting in 1911 and continuing until at least 1947.

Matters were different in Omaha and Lincoln. Omaha had had a regular club (and tournaments?) from the 1880s on, and settled in the YMCA at 17th and Farnam, where I spent my formative years, as early as 1917. Howard Ohman told me that during the Great Depression years, the club had been located in what later became the kitchen and dining room and hosted as many as 200 players a day.

State championships had been held, off and on, since 1899. It would be nice if someone spent the time to find out more details about these events. Ideal work for a Ph.D. used to research, I would think.

However, I find myself having to disagree with the Historical State Champions section of the Nebraska Chess Association Website (http\\nsca.nechess.com). It gives the impression that state tournaments occurred yearly on a virtually seamless basis from 1899 onwards. Of particular interest are the 23 consecutive titles by Howard Ohman from 1917-1940. Unless somebody has done some research that indicates otherwise, I have to go with Ohman's own recollections here. He told me that there were "only a few" tournaments during that period, "maybe five or six."

The Modern Era

Starting in the late '40s and continuing through the '50s, Nebraska chess got strong. A major impetus in Lincoln was the influx of players from the Baltic region: Anton Sildmets, Alex Liepnicks, Vladimir Rajnoha, and Andy Staklis. At the same time in Omaha, a number of players arose to challenge Ohman's primacy. Delmar Saxton had finally taken the Nebraska state title away from him in 1941. During this same period, Alfred Ludwig started taking chess seriously (after playing for years). He quickly annexed the Nebraska and Omaha titles and performed creditably in postal and national tournaments.

But the real impetus for improvement was the large number of young players, almost all from Omaha, who took up and quickly

mastered the game: Jack Spence, Richard McClellan, Richard Vincent, and Lee Magee. These players, particularly McClellan and Magee, were to dominate local area chess throughout the ‘50s, and these were the players about whom stories still circulated when I was embarking on my Omaha chess career.

The 1961 Midwest Open, my first event, still serves as an ideal event with which to describe the differences between chess today and chess in the sixties.

The tournament contained six rounds held over three days at the rate (I believe) of 45 moves in 2 hours. Nobody thought that this was unusual. If anything, it was rapid; Omaha’s standard time control was 50 moves in 2½ hours. It made for some deep calculation (I recall calculating one combination 14 moves (twenty -eight ply) deep – with subvariations. He varied after 3 moves), but also for horrendous time scrambles, to which John Watson and I can personally attest. It was held on the grounds of the since-departed Lincoln Air Force base.

There was a woman in the tournament. Today, with dozens of women holding the grandmaster title, and every other international open featuring women vying for the top spot, it may seem strange to mention this fact, but it would be more than a decade before I saw another women play in a tournament. It simply didn’t happen. I was certainly happy that Maria Chapman played in this tournament since she provided me with my initial (and only) victory, totally undeserved, I might add. She blundered in a winning position.

Thus ended, rather ignominiously, my first attempt at tournament chess. However, I did meet several of the best players in the state, for my own purposes, Howard Ohman and Jack Spence were the most important. Ohman made certain to invite me to the Omaha City High School Championship which he organized in the YMCA chess club on 17th and Farnam.

It may seem unusual to mention that event specifically, but very few cities in the country had such tournaments for young players

at this time. Chicago certainly didn't, and Chicago was on the verge of its great period.

Rev Howard Ohman

I have written about Howard Ohman at length before, but here I want to give a better sense of his influence on not just me, but the whole of Omaha and Nebraska chess.

First of all, Howard Ohman was born in July 1899 and died of a heart attack in May of 1968. (John Watson and I both attended his funeral.) He was the son of Albert F. and Emma (Larson) Ohman, both natives of Sweden. He graduated from Central High School in 1918 and later attended the University of Omaha where he was the winner of a scholarship. He indicated to me that he attended and later graduated from Creighton University Law School. For seven years he practiced law with Montgomery, Hall and Young, the law department of the Union Pacific Railroad, with Johnson, Moorhead and Rine, and then, privately.

Ohman was active in chess for virtually his whole life. What that means is that when I got to know him in 1962, he was well past his competitive prime. In his prime, he was clearly a strong master. Reuben Fine called him "the best player between the Mississippi and the West Coast" and Howard (now that forty years have passed since his death, I feel I can call him that – while he was alive, he was always Reverend Ohman to me) himself told me that the then World Champion, Alexander Alekhine, called him down the train to play speed chess when Alekhine was traveling through Omaha. You don't

do that with someone you don't respect. It is hard to estimate playing strength across decades, but the games that I have seen from the '20s and '30s do nothing to suggest to me that these judgments were wrong.

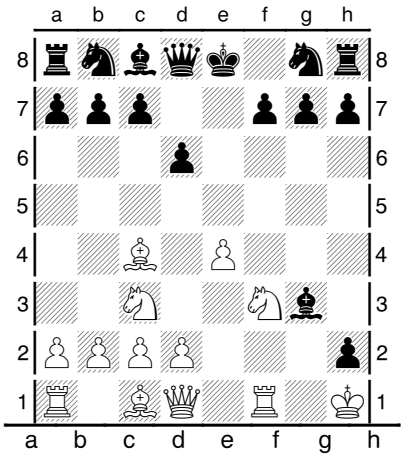
Ohman's most famous game is one that I had the distinct impression he was rather sorry he had ever played. When he was talking with old-timers, they would inevitably bring up "the Ruth game," and just as inevitably he would reply "Oh, that old thing." He would much rather have been discussing a recent game of his questioner than demonstrating it again. But, inevitably, he did demonstrate it for, what, the thousandth time?

So, without further ado, here is Ohman-Ruth, the Nebraska game seen round the world. I will not profane it with comments.

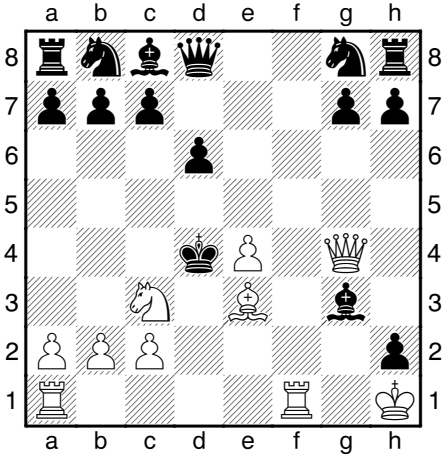
Ohman,Howard − Buck,G C30

Skittles,

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 d6 3.f4 exf4 4.♘f3 ♗e7 5.♗c4 ♗h4+ 6.g3 fxg3 7.0-0 gxh2+ 8.♔h1 ♗g3 Diagram



9.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 10.♘e5+ ♔e6 11.♕g4+ ♔xe5 12.d4+ ♔xd4 13.♗e3+ Diagram



13...♔xe3 14.♖ad1 ♗xg4 15.♖d3# 1-0

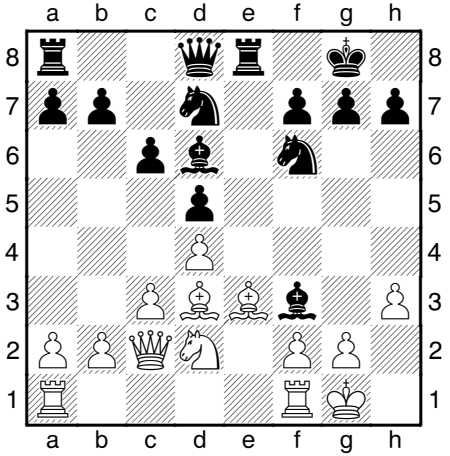
A bit flashy, but nice nonetheless. A more important game came from Ohman when he was in his early twenties. A six- game match was organized against the Iowa State Champion.

Gilman,W.S. − Ohman,Howard

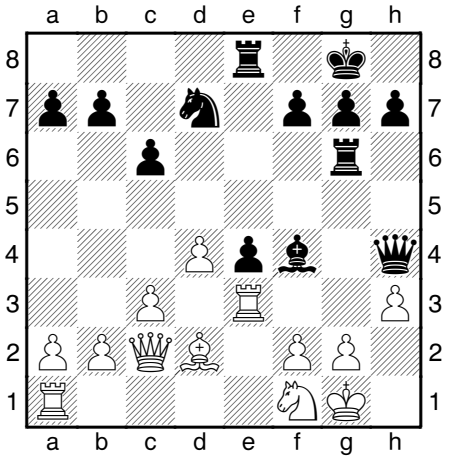
French Defense C01

Match: Iowa-Nebraska Champions Sioux City (1), 1921

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.♗d3 ♗d6 5.♘f3 If you are going to play the bishop to d3 early, the point should be to play Nge2 and eliminate both your bad bishop and Black's good bishop, for example, 5.♘e2 ♘f6 6.♗f4. It may not turn into anything (the position is still boringly equal) but of such small triumphs are positional wins constructed. **5...♘f6 6.♗e3?! c6 7.♘bd2 0-0 8.c3 ♖e8 9.0-0 ♗g4 10.♕c2 ♘bd7=** Black is slightly, almost infinitesimally, better because of White's bishop on e3.**11.h3 ♗xf3!** Diagram



The type of move that marks Ohman as a master even at the beginning of his career. The bishop is bad and will have less influence on the position than White's missing knight would have had.**12.♘xf3 ♘e4∓ 13.♗xe4 dxe4 14.♘d2 ♕h4!** Preventing 15.f3! **15.♖fe1 ♖e6 16.♘f1?!** 16.f3! ♗g3 17.♖f1 exf3 18.♘xf3 ♕e4 19.♕xe4 ♖xe4 20.♗f2 ♗f4 is essential. Otherwise, White is already lost. **16...♖ae8 17.♗d2 ♖g6 18.♖e3** 18.♔h1 ♖ee6 with attack. **18...♗f4?!** Diagram



Hard to turn this down, but even better is 18...♘f6! 19.c4 *(if 9.♖ae1, 9... ♗f4)* 19...♘h5 20.g3 ♘f4-+ **19.♖ae1?** 19.♖e2! ♗c7 **19...♗xe3 20.♖xe3 ♘b6 21.c4 f5 22.♘g3 ♖f8 23.♖b3 f4?!** A bit impulsive. Instead, 23...♖e6! 24.♗b4 ♖f7 25.♗c5 e3!-+ **24.♕xe4!** White is still much worse, but now he can at least make a game of it. **24...♘xc4 25.♗b4 ♕f6 26.♘h5** 26.♗e7 ♕f7 27.♗xf8 ♘d2 28.♖xb7 ♘xe4 29.♖xf7 ♔xf7 30.♘xe4 ♔xf8 with a very easily won endgame. White naturally wants to avoid this. **26...♕f5 27.♕e7 ♘d2** 27...♖c8! 28.♕xb7 ♖e8-+ **28.♗xd2 ♕xh5 29.♗b4 ♖b8 30.♕c7 ♖e8 31.♕xf4 ♖f6 32.♕c7 ♕d1+ 33.♔h2 ♖xf2 0-1**

I suspect that Ohman's opponent did not take him very seriously in this game, but its result guaranteed that he would for the rest of the match. It made no difference: Ohman won 6-0.

In 1942, Ohman's string of consecutive Nebraska Championships was finally severed by Delmar Saxton. Although he would win again in 1942 and 1946, he was no longer a dominant player in Nebraska. Alfred Ludwig was.

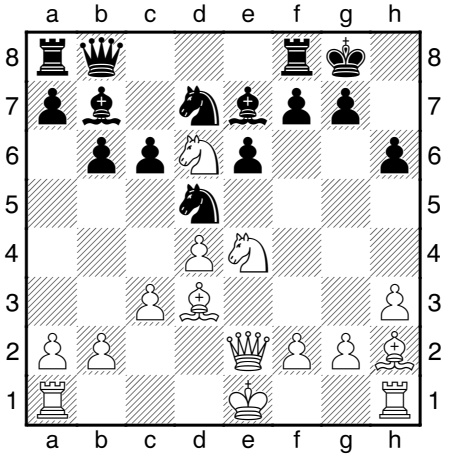
Alfred Ludwig

Unlike the rest of the players I am going to profile, Al Ludwig was not a talented young player. He appears to have started to study seriously when he was mature. Here is a game with Ohman:

Ludwig,A.C. - Ohman,Howard A47

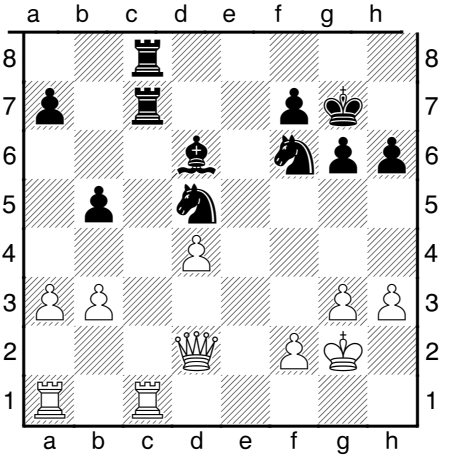
Nebraska State Championship, 1947

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.♗g5 ♗e7 3...h6! Almost everybody, from Korchnoi to Karpov, puts the question to the bishop immediately: 4.♗h4 *(4.♗xf6 ♕xf6 5.e4)* 4...g5 5.♗g3 ♘e4 6.♘bd2 ♘xg3 7.hxg3 ♗g7 8.c3 d6 9.e4 **4.e3 b6 5.♗d3 ♗b7 6.♘bd2 d6 7.♕e2 ♘bd7** Better is 7...a6 8.e4 h6 9.♗f4 **8.e4** 8.♗a6! improves. **8...h6** Black should have done this when the bishop had to retreat to h4. **9.♗f4 ♘f8?!** 9...a6! is correct. Black has to wait, and this is the best way to do so. Ohman is quite aware that if he castles immediately he is in danger of getting mated -- quickly. **10.h3** 10.♗a6! **10...c6?** The type of move you make when you know you are in a bad position and don't know what else to do. Still, 10...a6 is much better. **11.c3 ♕c7?!** Black should play 11...♘g6 12.♗h2 0-0 which is still not very good. **12.e5! ♘d5 13.♗h2 ♘d7** 13...dxe5 14.♘xe5 ♕c8 15.♕f3 ♘f6 **14.♘e4 dxe5 15.♘xe5 ♕c8?** The only move is 15...♘xe5 16.♗xe5 ♕d8 17.♗xg7 ♖g8 **16.♘c4!** winning **0-0 17.♘cd6 ♕b8** Diagram



18.♘f5? Too cute. Both players missed the crusher Nxb7 Qxb7 Ba6!! winning the Queen. I told you Black should have played ...a6! **18...exf5! 19.♗xb8 fxe4 20.♗xe4 ♖axb8∓** Three minor pieces are generally considered superior to the queen, but there are many exceptions. Just as one example among many, consider Shirov-Carlsen from Bilbao, 2010 where Carlsen tried to make something of the pieces for 174 moves.

Here, what we can say definitively is that the better player will win. Specifically, in these strategical endings, Ohman was the better player. **21.0-0** If 21.♗xd5 cxd5 22.♕xe7?? ♖fe8 Perhaps Ludwig missed this at move 17? **21...♗d6 22.♖fe1 ♖be8 23.♕f3 ♘7f6 24.♗c2 b5 25.♔f1?!** To exchange all the rooks. But 25.♖xe8 ♖xe8 26.♔f1 is the right way to do it. **25...♖c8!** Why does Ohman avoid the exchange of rooks? There is no easy (i.e., principled) answer to that question. My best bet is that his experience told him that Black's rook will have more to do than White's, and the progress of the game proved him right. **26.g3?!** White's position is growing less comfortable mistake by (almost) imperceptible mistake. **26...♖c7 27.♕d3?! g6 28.a3 ♔g7 29.b3?** Ludwig appears to believe that White stands better, but his last move should have essentially ended the game immediately. **29...♗c8?!** 29...c5! 30.♕xb5 (30.c4 bxc4 31.bxc4 ♘b6 32.d5 is better, but Black is still clearly superior) 30...♘xc3 31.♕d3 ♘ce4 32.d5 c4 33.bxc4 ♖xc4! 34.♕xc4 ♘d2+ **30.♔g2** 30.c4! bxc4 31.bxc4 ♗a6 **30...♗f5 31.♕d2 ♗xc2 32.♕xc2 c5 33.♕d2 cxd4 34.cxd4 ♖fc8 35.♖ec1** Diagram

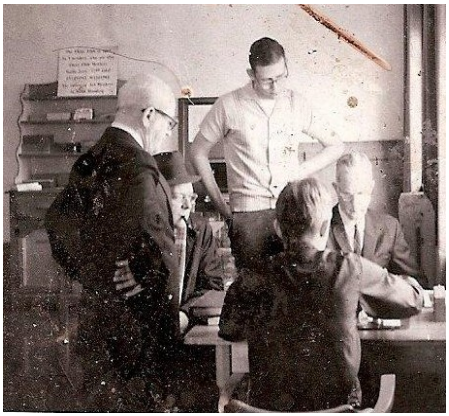


35...♘c3? 35...♗xg3! 36.fxg3 ♖c2 37.♖xc2 ♖xc2 38.♕xc2 ♘e3+ 39.♔f2 ♘xc2 40.♖d1 (40.♖a2 ♘xd4 41.b4 ♔f8 42.♖d2 *(42.♔e3 ♘e6 43.♖c2 ♘d5+ 44.♔e4 ♘b6 45.♔e5 ♔e7)* 42...♘e6) 40...♘xa3 41.♖a1 b4 and Black wins. **36.b4 ♘fd5 37.♖e1 ♗e7! 38.♕d3 ♗f6∓ 39.♖ac1 ♖c4-+ 40.♕f3 ♖xd4 41.♖c2 ♖dc4** 41...♖c6! **42.♖d2 ♖d8 43.♖d3 a6 44.♖c1 ♖cc8? 45.♖c2?** I suspect time pressure here at the very end of the session. 45.♖xd5! ♖xd5 46.♖xc3 ♖xc3 47.♕xd5 ♖xa3 with equality. After Ludwig misses this, Ohman does not give him another chance. **45...♖c4 46.♖cd2? ♘e4 47.♖d1 ♘g5 48.♕e2 ♘c3 49.♖xc3 ♖xc3 50.♖xd8 ♗xd8 51.h4 ♘e6 52.a4 bxa4 53.♕xa6 a3 54.b5 ♖b3 55.♕a4 ♘c5 56.♕d4+ ♗f6 57.♕xc5 a2 0-1**

The *Gambit* is appreciative and delighted to receive this material from **Mr. John Tomas**. For readers not familiar with Mr. Tomas, John was a dominate Nebraska player in the 60's and 70's. John's wins include annexing the Omaha City Championship in 1971 and 1972. He won the Nebraska High School Championship from 1962 to 1966. John won the Nebraska State Championship in 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. John notched a national title by winning the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1981. A writer by profession, he is the winner of many chess journalist awards and is currently living in Chicago.

Historic Chess Photos

March 1968 at the old Omaha Chess Club on the third floor of the YMCA building at 17th and Farnam Standing: Sam Richman, Jack Suchy. Seated, Moi (with back to camera), Jack Spence and Howard Ohman, facing the camera. Photographer: Peter Tomas. I am demonstrating my win over John Watson at the Kansas City Open earlier that month. It is likely that this was the last photograph taken of Ohman: he died less than two months later. *Submitted by John Tomas.*



LINCOLN CHESS TEAM TOPS OMAHA—Members of the Lincoln Chess Team, victors over Omaha in a recent match, are (seated, from left): W. Sabin; P. Wood; Alexander Liepnicks; B. Frank Watson, club president; E. Hinman; and V. Rajnoha; (standing, from left) J. Sobolevski; S. Reeder; J. Warner; J. Dannfields; A. Sildme ts; P. Finley; O. Stauers; B. Schwabauer; E. Adminis and R. Kalnins.

Lincoln Chess Team Tops Omaha-Members of the Lincoln Chess Team, victors over Omaha in a recent match are (seated, from left): W. Sabin; P. Wood; Alexander Liepnicks; B. Frank Watson, club president; E. Hinman; and V. Rajnoha; (standing from left) J. Sobolevski; S. Reeder; J. Warner; J. Dannfields; A. Sildmets; P. Finley; O Stauers; B. Schwabauer; E. Adminis and R. Kalnins. Not pictured are V. Pupols and A. Freibergs. (Staff Photo.) (Year 1952) *Research done by Bob Woodworth, NSCA Historical Archivist.*

Tournament Results

Please send standings to:
Kent B Nelson
4014 "N" St. Lincoln, NE 68510
Special note—Tournament results were pulled from the USCF web site.
Listing of players are not in tie breaking order.

2010 Defenders of the Crown

Press release to the Republican-Nonpareil
Central City, Nebraska, written by Richard Olson.

In his very first tournament chess game, 12-year-old, Matthew Glynn defeated 15-year-old Aaron Cloet from Sutton, who won the Youth trophy. Then with the same trick play he defeated a skillful Class B player, David Raines, from Steward. Then he lost to Jiri and to Phil Fischer. Matthew won the Junior trophy. Phil Fischer won two games and a trophy. Tournament director, Richard Olson, drew one game, lost one, sat out one and won one. He considers his draw with a superior player, Gary Marks of Lincoln, to be a big victory. Gary won 2 games, drew one and lost one. He won a trophy. Omar Ramirez lost all his games but received a red ribbon for being the second best Junior player. Jiri Olejnick (about 30 years old) received his PHD in physics of plasma and ionized metals at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, which is the oldest university in central Europe. He was in the United States November 2006 to September 2007, July 2008 to June 2009, and now March to December 2010. He will not return again to the United States. While here, he won several chess tournaments in Nebraska. He does some teaching in the chemistry department at UNK and does research on solar cells. He will next work at the Institute of Physics in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague.

No	Name	City	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**J. Olejnick**	**Kearney**	1900	**W 4**	**W 3**	**W 5**	**W 2**	**4.0**
2	**G. Marks**	**Lincoln**	1600	**D 6**	**W 8**	**W 3**	**L 1**	**2.5**
3	**P. Fischer**	**Clarks**	1341	**W 10**	**L 1**	**L 2**	**W 5**	**2.0**
4	**J. Clarke**	**Central**	1278	**L 1**	**W 6**	**W 9**	**WD**	**2.0**
5	**M. Glynn**	**Clarks**	New	**W 8**	**W 7**	**L 1**	**L 3**	**2.0**
6	**R. Olson**	**Clarks**	1400	**D 2**	**L 4**	**——**	**W 8**	**1.5**
7	**D. Raines**	**Seward**	1631	**W 9**	**L 5**	**WD**	**——**	**1.0**
8	**A. Clost**	**Sutton**	800	**L 5**	**L 2**	**W 10**	**L 6**	**1.0**
9	**G. Buchanon**	**Ravenna**	1174	**L 7**	**W 10**	**L 4**	**WD**	**1.0**
10	**O. Ramirez**	**Clarks**	New	**L 3**	**L 9**	**L 8**	**WD**	**0-0**

The 2010 Omaha City Championship

The Omaha City Chess Championship was held in the Quest Center on September 24th and 25th. Yours truly, Kent Nelson, won the event with 3.5 out of 4 points. Despite being a Lincoln resident, Nelson earned the title of 2010 Omaha City Champion.
The tournament was organized and directed by Mike Gooch who did his usual through and professional job running the event.
This event was held concurrently with the Omaha River Roundup. This editor was delighted with the various displays and activities during the tournament which included a Roy Roger's display of his stuffed horse, Trigger and his dog Bullet. Next time, I'll remember my cowboy hat! -Kent Nelson

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**K. Nelson**	1816	**W 11**	**W 6**	**W 3**	**D 2**	**3.5**
2	**J. Slominski**	1961	**H 0**	**W 19**	**W 4**	**D1**	**3.0**
3	**J Herr**	1721	**W 12**	**W 10**	**L 1**	**W 5**	**3.0**
4	**C. Forsman**	1708	**W 14**	**W 16**	**L 2**	**W 10**	**3.0**
5	**J. Wan**	1611	**H 0**	**W 8**	**W 7**	**L 3**	**2.5**
6	**J. Hartmann**	1600	**W 15**	**L 1**	**W 12**	**D 9**	**2.5**
7	**D. McFarland**	1570	**H 0**	**W 13**	**L 5**	**W 14**	**2.5**
8	**J. McFarland**	1220	**H 0**	**L 5**	**W 18**	**W 13**	**2.5**
9	**R. Borchers**	1046	**H 0**	**D 20**	**W 16**	**D 6**	**2.5**
10	**B. Li**	1586	**W 17**	**L 3**	**W 11**	**L 4**	**2.0**
11	**S. Daly**	1325	**L 1**	**W 15**	**L 10**	**W 16**	**2.0**
12	**A. Golubow**	1358	**L 3**	**W 17**	**L 6**	**W 19**	**2.0**
13	**J. Solheim**	1739	**H 0**	**L 7**	**W 19**	**L 8**	**1.5**
14	**M. Mulligan**	1173	**L 4**	**D 18**	**W 20**	**L 7**	**1.5**
15	**Jason Selvaraj**	1144	**L 6**	**L 11**	**W 17**	**H 0**	**1.5**
16	**B. Ryan**	1613	**W 18**	**L 4**	**L 9**	**L 11**	**1.0**
17	**A. Petrosyan**	1099	**L 10**	**L 12**	**L 15**	**W 20**	**1.0**
18	**Joe Selvaraj**	1030	**L 16**	**D 14**	**L 8**	**H 0**	**1.0**
19	**N. Holman**	765	**W 20**	**L 2**	**L 13**	**L 12**	**1.0**
20	**David Given**	1328	**L 19**	**D 9**	**L 14**	**L 17**	**0.5**

2010 Nebraska Amateur Championship
Open Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**E. Santiesteban**	1758	**W 6**	**W 7**	**W 3**	**W 4**	**4.0**
2	**M. Zeljko**	1991	**L 4**	**W 5**	**W 7**	**W 6**	**3.0**
3	**D. Taffinder Jr**	2078	**W 5**	**D 4**	**L 1**	**B 0**	**2.5**
4	**J. Wan**	1615	**W 2**	**D 3**	**W 6**	**L 1**	**2.5**
5	**J. Hartmann**	1610	**L 3**	**L 2**	**B 0**	**W 7**	**2.0**
6	**G. Marks**	1600	**L1**	**B 0**	**L 4**	**L 2**	**1.0**
7	**A. Golubow**	1381	**B 0**	**L 1**	**L 2**	**L 5**	**1.0**

2010 Nebraska Amateur Championship
Under 1000 Section (middle) and Under 1500 Section (below)

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**N. Fredericks**	968	**W 9**	**W 7**	**W 6**	**W 4**	**4.0**
2	**P. Hanigan**	755	**L 4**	**W 11**	**W 7**	**W 6**	**3.0**
3	**I. Krings**	733	**W 12**	**L 4**	**W 9**	**W 8**	**3.0**
4	**V. Retineni**	375	**W 2**	**W 3**	**W 5**	**L 1**	**3.0**
5	**R. Elmore**	862	**W 8**	**L 6**	**L 4**	**W 9**	**2.0**
6	**W. Elmore**	726	**W 10**	**W 5**	**L 1**	**L 2**	**2.0**
7	**J. Maelderry**	720	**W 11**	**L 1**	**L 2**	**W 10**	**2.0**
8	**T. Leone**	465	**L 5**	**W 10**	**W 12**	**L 3**	**2.0**
9	**A. Jaddu**	708	**L 1**	**W 12**	**L 3**	**L 5**	**1.0**
10	**A. Oliveto**	Unr	**L 6**	**L 8**	**W 11**	**L 7**	**1.0**
11	**J. Kelly**	Unr	**L 7**	**L 2**	**L 10**	**W 12**	**1.0**
12	**L. Oliveto**	Unr	**L 3**	**L 9**	**L 8**	**L 11**	**0-0**

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**D. McFarland**	1474	**W 5**	**W 4**	**W 2**	**W 3**	**4.0**
2	**T. Benetz**	1353	**W 10**	**W 9**	**L 1**	**W 5**	**3.0**
3	**D. Wolk**	1349	**D 6**	**D 7**	**W 9**	**L 1**	**2.0**
4	**S. Daly**	Unr	**W 7**	**L 1**	**L 5**	**W 8**	**2.0**
5	**C. Sanders**	1242	**L 1**	**W 10**	**W 4**	**L 2**	**2.0**
6	**J. McFarland**	1219	**D 3**	**L 8**	**W 10**	**D 7**	**2.0**
7	**D. Dostal**	1348	**L 4**	**D 3**	**D 8**	**D 6**	**1.5**
8	**J. Selvaraj**	1139	**L 9**	**W 6**	**D 7**	**L 4**	**1.5**
9	**M. Mulligan**	1304	**W 8**	**L 2**	**L 3**	**L 10**	**1.0**
10	**S. Leone**	Unr	**L 2**	**L 5**	**L 6**	**W 9**	**1.0**

Polar Bear Reserve Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**S. Daly**	1425	**W 14**	**W 9**	**W 3**	**L 2**	**3.0**
2	**B. Houser**	1424	**D 5**	**W 12**	**D 10**	**W 1**	**3.0**
3	**S. Caplan**	1299	**X 0**	**W 4**	**L 1**	**W 7**	**3.0**
4	**David Given**	1230	**W 15**	**L 3**	**W 11**	**W 10**	**3.0**
5	**Dylan Hoover**	1272	**D 2**	**W 6**	**L 7**	**W 13**	**2.5**
6	**B Grimminger**	1093	**D 7**	**L 5**	**W 15**	**W 12**	**2.5**
7	**M. Hansen**	1343	**D 6**	**D 8**	**W 5**	**L 3**	**2.0**
8	**D. Wolk**	1341	**D 10**	**D 7**	**D 12**	**D 9**	**2.0**
9	**D. Dostal**	1310	**W 11**	**L 1**	**D 13**	**D 8**	**2.0**
10	**A. Hoover**	1076	**D 8**	**W 15**	**D 2**	**L 4**	**2.0**
11	**C. Cox**	1047	**L 9**	**B 0**	**L 4**	**W 14**	**2.0**
12	**J. Gage**	1277	**W 13**	**D 2**	**D 8**	**L 6**	**1.5**
13	**M. Tamilmaran**	Unr	**L 12**	**W 14**	**D 9**	**L 5**	**1.5**
14	**T. Gulizia**	1053	**L 1**	**L 13**	**B 0**	**L 11**	**1.0**
15	**S. Leone**	1063	**L 4**	**L 10**	**L 6**	**B 0**	**1.0**

Polar Bear Primary Section

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	**R. Marcoux**	482	**W 7**	**W 4**	**W 2**	**W 6**	**W 5**	**5.0**
2	**R. Kim**	560	**W 8**	**W 5**	**L 1**	**D 3**	**W 6**	**3.5**
3	**S. Hoover**	441	**W 9**	**W 10**	**L 6**	**D 2**	**D 7**	**3.0**
4	**S. Kimmet**	Unr	**W 11**	**L 1**	**W 12**	**L 8**	**W 9**	**3.0**
5	**D. Luo**	168	**B 0**	**L 2**	**W 8**	**W 7**	**L 1**	**3.0**
6	**S. Chokkara**	Unr	**H 0**	**W 9**	**W 3**	**L 1**	**L 2**	**2.5**
7	**J. Eckel**	Unr	**L 1**	**W 12**	**W 10**	**L 5**	**D 3**	**2.5**
8	**V. Potineni**	Unr	**L 2**	**W 11**	**L 5**	**W 4**	**D 12**	**2.5**
9	**D. Richardson**	Unr	**L 3**	**L 6**	**W 11**	**W 10**	**L 4**	**2.0**
10	**G. Goodwin**	Unr	**W 12**	**L 3**	**L 7**	**L 9**	**W 11**	**2.0**
11	**S. Selvaraj**	Unr	**L 4**	**L 8**	**L 9**	**W 12**	**L 10**	**1.0**
12	**M. Marcoux**	Unr	**L 10**	**L 7**	**L 4**	**L 11**	**D 8**	**0.5**

2010 Polar Bear Open Section (above)
2010 Polar Bear Junior Section (below)

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**T. Dutiel**	1884	**X 0**	**W 5**	**W 2**	**D 3**	**3.5**
2	**J. Wan**	1692	**W 8**	**W 6**	**L 1**	**W 7**	**3.0**
3	**F. Whisell**	1894	**L 6**	**W 9**	**W 7**	**D 1**	**2.5**
4	**K. Nelson**	1845	**H 0**	**D 7**	**W 6**	**D 5**	**2.5**
5	**T. Leacock**	1701	**W 10**	**L 1**	**W 8**	**D 4**	**2.5**
6	**C. Roth**	1575	**W 3**	**L 2**	**L 4**	**W 9**	**2.0**
7	**B. Li**	1583	**W 11**	**D 4**	**L 3**	**L 2**	**1.5**
8	**T. Benetz**	1385	**L 2**	**B 0**	**L 5**	**D 10**	**1.5**
9	**A. Golubow**	1355	**H 0**	**L 3**	**W 10**	**L 6**	**1.5**
10	**C. Dibley**	1511	**L 5**	**D 11**	**L 9**	**D 8**	**1.0**
11	**C. Forsman**	1721	**L 7**	**D 10**	**U 0**	**U 0**	**0.5**

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	**J. Selvaraj**	1212	**W 11**	**W 5**	**W 3**	**L 2**	**W 6**	**4.0**
2	**A. Petrosyan**	1094	**W 14**	**W 7**	**W 6**	**W 1**	**L 3**	**4.0**
3	**R. Luo**	962	**W 19**	**W 8**	**L 1**	**W 11**	**W 2**	**4.0**
4	**S. Chokkara**	991	**H 0**	**W 17**	**W 12**	**L 6**	**W 8**	**3.5**
5	**Joshua Hoover**	813	**W 18**	**L 1**	**W 14**	**W 7**	**H 0**	**3.5**
6	**S. Gage**	967	**W 15**	**W 13**	**L 2**	**W 4**	**L 1**	**3.0**
7	**M. Biven**	907	**X 0**	**L 2**	**W 13**	**L 5**	**W 14**	**3.0**
8	**S. Potineni**	772	**W 16**	**L 3**	**W 15**	**W 10**	**L 4**	**3.0**
9	**O. Gong**	1058	**L 13**	**L 15**	**B 0**	**W 12**	**D 11**	**2.5**
10	**N. Fredericks**	1044	**D 17**	**L 12**	**W 18**	**L 8**	**W 13**	**2.5**
11	**I. Krings**	739	**L 1**	**W 18**	**W 19**	**L 3**	**D 9**	**2.5**
12	**N. Mallipudi**	537	**H 0**	**W 10**	**L 4**	**L 9**	**W 17**	**2.5**
13	**V. Retineni**	703	**W 9**	**L 6**	**L 7**	**W 16**	**L 10**	**2.0**
14	**J. Severa**	731	**L 2**	**W 16**	**L 5**	**W 15**	**L 7**	**2.0**
15	**T. Leone**	476	**L 6**	**W 9**	**L 8**	**L 14**	**X 0**	**2.0**
16	**C. Corpuz**	Unr	**L 8**	**L 14**	**W 17**	**L 13**	**W 19**	**2.0**
17	**E. Caplan**	549	**D 10**	**L 4**	**L 16**	**W 19**	**L 12**	**1.5**
18	**G. Kimmet**	Unr	**L 5**	**L 11**	**L 10**	**B 0**	**F 0**	**1.0**
19	**G. Whitt**	103	**L 3**	**B 0**	**L 11**	**L 17**	**L 16**	**1.0**

The **2010 Midwest Open** was held on November 13th at the Harper Center on the C.U. campus in Omaha. Tied for 1st place was John Linscott and Tony Dutiel, each scoring 3.5 out of 4 points. John Linscott earned the final spot for the 2011 Nebraska State Closed since Tony Dutiel lives out of state. This event was organized and directed by Ben Ryan with assistance from Mike Gooch. Playing conditions were excellent and the tournament was run very professionally by Ben and Mike.—*Kent Nelson, Ed.*

No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	**J. Linscott**	1899	**W 12**	**W 7**	**W 10**	**D 2**	**3.5**
2	**T. Dutiel**	1868	**W 17**	**W 16**	**W 3**	**D 1**	**3.5**
3	**M. Zeljko**	1979	**W 5**	**W 11**	**L 2**	**W 6**	**3.0**
4	**J. Fitzpatrick**	1633	**W 21**	**L 10**	**W 18**	**W 11**	**3.0**
5	**Doug McFarland**	1593	**L 3**	**W 14**	**W 19**	**W 10**	**3.0**
6	**K. Nelson**	1838	**X 0**	**D 8**	**W 9**	**L 3**	**2.5**
7	**T. Leacock**	1709	**W 14**	**L 1**	**W 17**	**H 0**	**2.5**
8	**J. Wan**	1714	**W 23**	**D 6**	**L 11**	**W 13**	**2.5**
9	**G. Marks**	1600	**W 20**	**D 13**	**L 6**	**W 17**	**2.5**
10	**J. Herr**	1736	**W 18**	**W 4**	**L 1**	**L 5**	**2.5**
11	**C. Forsman**	1694	**W 19**	**L 3**	**W 8**	**L 4**	**2.0**
12	**B. Li**	1601	**L 1**	**W 23**	**L 13**	**W 20**	**2.0**
13	**R. Gruber**	1345	**H 0**	**D 9**	**W 12**	**L 8**	**2.0**
14	**A. Golubow**	1377	**L 7**	**L 5**	**W 23**	**W 21**	**2.0**
15	**James McFarland**	1306	**L 16**	**L 17**	**D 21**	**W 19**	**1.5**
16	**J. Solheim**	1697	**W 15**	**L 2**	**U 0**	**U 0**	**1.0**
17	**C. Roth**	1600	**L 2**	**W 15**	**L 7**	**L 9**	**1.0**
18	**W. Gage**	1478	**L 10**	**W 21**	**L 4**	**U 0**	**1.0**
19	**S. Daly**	1443	**L 11**	**W 20**	**L 5**	**L 15**	**1.0**
20	**M. Mulligan**	1203	**L 9**	**L 19**	**B 0**	**L 12**	**1.0**
21	**D. Given**	1255	**L 4**	**L 18**	**D 15**	**L 14**	**0.5**
22	**W. Broich**	1565	**F 0**	**U 0**	**U 0**	**U 0**	**0.0**
23	**J. Gage**	1255	**L 8**	**L 12**	**L 14**	**U 0**	**0.0**

The RBO XIV Open was held concurrently with the Midwest Open and drew 14 players. Jason Selvaraj, the highest rated player in the section, won the 6 round event with a 5-1 score. This tournament was organized and directed by Ben Ryan and Mike Gooch. *–Ed*

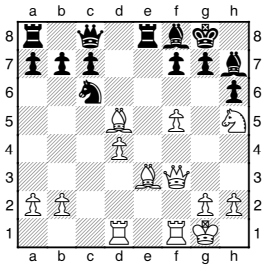
No	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	**J. Selvaraj**	1216	**W 9**	**W 8**	**W 4**	**W 2**	**L 5**	**W 7**	**5.0**
2	**S. Gage**	986	**D 13**	**W 6**	**W 10**	**L 1**	**W 8**	**W 5**	**4.5**
3	**J. Volkmer**	Unr	**L 8**	**W 14**	**L 5**	**W 12**	**W 9**	**W 6**	**4.0**
4	**S. Potineni**	830	**W 12**	**W 7**	**L 1**	**D 5**	**L 6**	**W 8**	**3.5**
5	**T. Stormberg**	840	**W 14**	**L 10**	**W 3**	**D 4**	**W 1**	**L 2**	**3.5**
6	**S. Chokkara**	989	**L 10**	**L 2**	**W 13**	**W 11**	**W 4**	**L 3**	**3.0**
7	**M. Biven**	896	**W 11**	**L 4**	**W 9**	**L 8**	**W 10**	**L 1**	**3.0**
8	**M. Hezel**	801	**W 3**	**L 1**	**W 11**	**W 7**	**L 2**	**L 4**	**3.0**
9	**A. Jaddu**	784	**L 1**	**W 13**	**L 7**	**W 10**	**L 3**	**W 14**	**3.0**
10	**N. Mallipudi**	673	**W 6**	**W 5**	**L 2**	**L 9**	**L 7**	**W 12**	**3.0**
11	**A. Zaleski**	Unr	**L 7**	**W 12**	**L 8**	**L 6**	**W 14**	**W 13**	**3.0**
12	**C. Carpuz**	501	**L 4**	**L 11**	**W 14**	**L 3**	**W 13**	**L 10**	**2.0**
13	**H. McMinn**	148	**D 2**	**L 9**	**L 6**	**W 14**	**L 12**	**L 11**	**1.5**
14	**G. Gustafson**	Unr	**L 5**	**L 3**	**L 12**	**L 13**	**L 11**	**L 9**	**0.0**

Tony Dutiel

Tony was kind enough to submit his recent wins to the *Gambit.* Tony has been in good playing form, having won the Polar Bear and sharing 1st place with John Linscott at the Midwest Open. Please see page 33 (next page) for Tony's article.

Dutiel,T (1884) - Wan,J (1692)
Polar Bear-Open, 09.10.2010

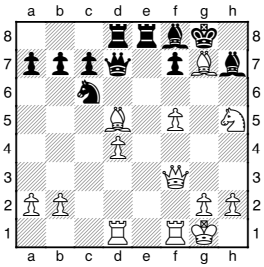
1.**e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 0 -0 8.Nge2 Bf5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Bd6 11.Ng3 Bg6?!** The opening stage is complete. Both sides are castled and developed. White's biggest weakness is the isolated d-pawn. In light of this weakness, black should play 11... Bxg3 followed by Ng4!. Trades favor black as the more pieces traded, the weaker the d-pawn becomes. The Bishop becomes a target on g6. **12.f4 h6** White was threatening f5 trapping the Bishop. Black chooses the passive defense, creating an escape square on h7 where the Bishop will be weak. A better move would have been Re8! to counter threaten white's loose Bishop instead. **13.Qf3 Re8 14.Rad1** Here, I react to a non threat. I was concerned that my d-pawn would fall if I played f5 right away since black could play Bxg3 followed by Nxd4. What I didn't see it that if he did play Bxg3, then fxg6 is winning as he can't stop both gxf7+ and save the g3 bishop. Both Bb5! and f5 are better. Black's next move is the mistake that leads me to start an attack. I believe he played it to free up his c6 knight. However, I notice right away that by moving off the d8-h4 diagonal, black's dark squares are now weakened. **14...Qc8?! 15.f5 Bh7 16.Nd5** I decided the best way to start an attack is to first eliminate black's best defender. **16...Nxd5?** Black needed to admit to his mistake. The position is near equal after **16..Qd8. 17.Bxd5 Bf8?? 18.Nh5?!**



Position after 18. Nh5?!

Black had to play either Nb4 or Qd7 here to survive. Luckily for black, I was too focused on the dark squares to realize that 18. Bxf7!! wins. I was shocked that I had missed this tactic as it is a thematic bughouse sac. It wins the Rook as he cannot recapture the Bishop without losing a TON of material or getting mated after Qd5+ [18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.Qd5+

Ke7 (19...Kf6 20.Nh5+ Ke7 21.Bg5+ hxg5 22.Rde1+ Ne5 23.Rxe5+ Qe6 24.Qxe6+ Kd8 25.Qxe8#; 19...Re6 20.fxe6+ Ke8 21.Qh5+ g6 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Qf3+ Kg8 24.Qf7+ Kh8 25.Bxh6) 20.Bg5+ hxg5 21.Rde1+ Ne5 22.Rxe5+ Qe6 (22...Kf6 23.Ne4#) 23.Qxe6+ Kd8 24.Qxe8#] **18...Qd7** Now it is too late to get this in since the queen becomes my next target via the f6 square. Best defense for black is Nb4. **19.Bxh6 Rad8** I cannot find a good defense for black here. Obviously he can't recapture on h6 since Nf6+ wins the queen. If he had tried 19.. Kh8 I had calculated 20.Bxg7+ anyway. After 20... Bxg7 21. Nxg7, Kxg7 22. f6+, Kh8 23. Qh5!, Nd8 24. Rf4 followed by Rh4. **20.Bxg7**

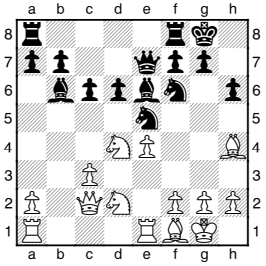


Position after 20.B:g7

I think at this point he realized how much trouble he was really in as he spent a lot of time here thinking. The key point of Bxg7 is that I have now cleared the f6 square for my knight and he is mated by force if he recaptures with the Bishop, since Qg3 cannot be defended against due to the pinned f-pawn. He decides it is better to lose his queen for 2 pieces than his king. **20...Qxd5** [20...Bxg7 21.Qg3 Kf8 22.Qxg7+ Ke7 23.f6+ Kd6 24.Qg3+ Kxd5 25.Nf4+ Kd6 26.Qa3+ Nb4 27.Qxb4+ Kc6 28.Qc5#; 20...Be7] **21.Nf6+ Kxg7 22.Nxd5 Bd6 23.f6+** Both Qg4 and Qh5 are also winning. Both 23...Kf8 24.Qh5 He cannot move the Bishop since Qh8 is mate. If he tries to defend the Bishop with Kg8, then 25. Qg5+, Bg6 26. Nf4! followed by Nxg6. He cannot trade the d6 bishop off for the knight since after Rxf4, Qh6 cannot be met with Bf8. **1-0**

Leacock,T (1701) - Dutiel,T (1884)
Polar Bear-Open, 09.10.2010

1**.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bb4+** The Scotch Gambit. The more common move here is Bc5. My preferred defense Bb4+ is less known. **5.c3 dxc3 6.bxc3 Ba5 7.Qb3 Qe7 8.0-0 d6 9.Bg5 Nf6 10.Re1 0 -0 11.Nbd2 Bb6 12.Bb5 Be6 13.Qc2 Ne5 14.Nd4 h6 15.Bh4 c6 16.Bf1** Black has survived the attack and is now fully developed and ready to start making progress himself.

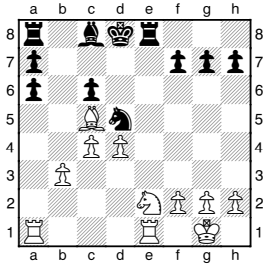


Position after 16. Bf1

16...g5 17.Bg3 Nh5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 Rfd8 21.Nc4 Bc7 I do not want to trade my good Bishop, so I reposition and prepare for a possible Q+B battery on h2. **22.Ne3 Nf6** A tough choice. I tried figuring out whether it belonged on f4 or f6. I decided on f6 since it had greater scope. on f4, both the e6 and g6 squares would be guarded by the f5-pawn. On f6, however, I have more future options. **23.Bc4 Rd7 24.Rad1 Rad8 25.Rxd7 Rxd7 26.Rd1 b5 27.Bd3 e4 28.Be2 a6** I had thought about Qe5 right away here instead. I didn't see a good follow up after g3 since Bb6 is met by Ng4! and I can't win the f-pawn in light of Nxh6+. **29.Rxd7 Qxd7 30.g3 Kg7** I want to avoid a Knight trade. Now I can capture the f-pawn with my queen if he ever moves the knight. This way I make him babysit the pawn since f4? opens up a huge weakness on h2. **31.Qd1** [31.Ng4] **31...Bb6 32.Qxd7 Nxd7 33.Nc2 Ne5 34.Kg2 Nd3!** If he captures the knight my pawn will queen. **35.f3 Nc1 36.Bf1** He does not want to trade his Bishop off as the best drawing chance he has is trading knights and going into the opposite colored bishops ending. **36...exf3+ 37.Kxf3 Nxa2 38.Nb4 Nxc3 39.Nxa6 c5** At this point we were both under 5 minutes and I stopped notating. I advanced my connected passed pawns down the board with the support of both my pieces and my King, and he ended up giving me a piece to prevent it from queening. 0-1

Dutiel,T (1884) - Whitsell,F (1892)
Polar Bear-Open, 09.10.2010

This is my last round. I am a full point ahead of the rest of the field. All I need is a draw in this game to secure the win. A loss would land me in a 3 way tie for 1st. I am playing my friend whom I had driven up to Nebraska with and have played many rated games against. To date he has beaten me 4 times and drew 3 including a win against me just last time we played. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.d4 exd5 5.Nc3** I transposed out of the center counter Islandic gambit into an exchange French knowing that had I played into it, a tactical fight would ensure that I did not need or know as well as my opponent. The exchange French with an early c4, however, is an opening I know quite well. **5...c6 6.Bd3 Bb4 7.Nge2 Be6 8.Qb3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3** I think he relieved the tension too soon here. Qa5 is better. The text not only reforces my d-pawn, but also allows my Bishop the strong a3 square which prevents him from getting castled **9...Qb6 10.Ba3 Qxb3** [10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 (11...Qxb3 12.Bxb3 Bxb3 13.axb3²) 12.Qxc4 Qa6] **11.axb3 Na6?!** [11...dxc4 12.bxc4 Na6 This is much stronger since now ..c5 is met with Nc7. The text allows me to double isolate his a-pawns. If he recaptures on d5 with the Bishop instead, I need not fear Bxg2 since Rg1 picks back up the g pawn.] **12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxa6 bxa6 14.Bc5 Bc8 15.0-0** I don't need to castled since my King is better placed on d2. I was concerned it may become a target after Nf6-e4. **15...Kd8 16.Rfe1 Re8 17.c4**



I offered him a draw here. If he had declined, I had planned to reposition my knight to d3 via f4 so that I could have the option of going to b4 or e5. I am clearly better here due to my pawn structure and more active pieces. ½-½

The Relentless Power of the Stonewall Attack!

by

David Jenkins

Editor's note: David Jenkins is an expert on the Stonewall Attack as White. Your editor found this out the hard way, as the following game will attest…

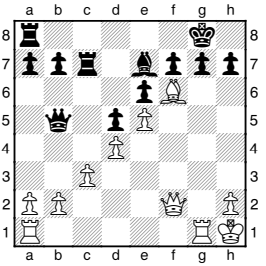
Jenkins-Nelson. Club event, many moons ago…

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nd2 Be7 5.f4 b6 6.Ngf3 Ba6 7.Ne5 Bxd3 8.cxd3 0-0 9.0-0 c5 10.g4 cxd4 11.exd4 Nfd7 12.g5 Qc7 13.Qh5 Nxe5 14.fxe5 g6 15.Qh6 Qd8 16.Rf6 Nc6 17.Nb3 a5 18.Be3 a4 19.Raf1 axb3 20.R1f3 bxa2 21.Rh3 a1Q+ 22.Kg2 Qxb2+ 23.Kf3 1-0 Mercy!-KN

The following are games and notes by David Jenkins.

Jenkins-Knapp. '09 Cornhusker games. Rd 2. Open section. Stonewall attack. White makes a pawn sac on move 14 to open lines against the enemy king. From that point on, he seizes the initiative and never lets go of Black's throat!

d4 Nf6 2. e3 d5 3. Bd3 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. f4! (the key move! can't allow black to play e5! or White is busted!) **Bg4 6. Nf3 e6 7. Nbd2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Qe1 Re8 10. Ne5 cxd4 11. exd4 Bf5 12. Qe2 Qb6 13. Kh1 Bf8 14. g4!? Nxe5 15. fxe5 Bxd3 16. Qxd3 Nxg4 17 Qh3! Nh6 18. Nf3 Nf5** (it seems as if Black is holding things together, but is an illusion that will soon be dispelled, much to his chagrin!) **19. Nh4 Nxh4 20. Qxh4 Qb5 21. Qf2!** (defending and attacking at the same time!) **Re7? 22. Bg5! Rc7?** (the move that comes back to haunt Black. In his defense, he was in serious time pressure at this point, and White never lets up the pressure!) **23. Rg1 Be7 24. Bf6!!**

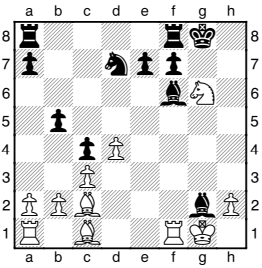


(A thunderbolt! When Black saw White move his bishop, he assumed I was trading bishops as he reached out his hand to recapture, but White's move surprised him w/it's subtle brilliancy! Black is hopelessly lost now. The e-pawn becomes a dagger in Black's side which he cannot extract!) **Bxf6 25. exf6 g6 26. Rg3?** (26. Qf4 wins instantly!) **Qe8 27. Rh3? h5 28. Qf4!** (finally!) **Qf8 29. Qxc7 and Black lost on time,** although he is already lost a rook down. And so, another one bites the dust to the relentless power of the stonewall attack! and a strong player at that! Joe was rated 1800+ at the time this game was played, and is even higher now!

I present the following game as a lesson to the readers in the importance of following through on a carefully prepared attack and not making casual moves out of laziness or allowing emotions to get in the way. White missed his win on move 20 by mindlessly recapturing a piece instead of analyzing the board 1st and finding the winning in-between move, due to a feeling of letdown after allowing black to trade queens! The game petered out into a rook and pawn endgame which ended in a draw as both players were in time pressure. A win would've given White the gold medal! Instead, by virtue of tiebreaks, he didn't even get a bronze and left the tournament empty handed and sullen! Too bad so sad! :(

Jenkins-Reeves. Cornhusker games '09. Round 5. Stonewall attack

d4 Nf6 2. e3 g6 3. Bd3 Bg7 4.Nd2 b6 5.f4 d5 6. Ngf3 Bg4? 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Qe1! c5 9. c3 c4? 10. Bc2 Bc8? (wasting time) **11. Ne5! Bb7 12.e4! b5? 13. f5! dxe4 14. Nxe4 Qd5 15. Nxf6+ Bxf6 16. Qg3!** (pinning the g6-pawn and defending g2!) **Nd7 17. fxg6 hxg6 18. Nxg6!** (the point! it looks like curtains for Black, but he finds a clever resource) **Qxg2+! 19. Qxg2 Bxg2** (black's Q trade took me by surprise and left me feeling deflated, and so I missed the forced win on my next move!) **20. Kxg2??**



(completely missing the in-between move 20.Nxf8!!, winning a piece

by force! (Nd7 and Bg2 are both attacked, forcing Black to make a decision. If he plays 20...Bxf1 there follows 21. Nxd7 winning a piece (if he recaptures the knight, I play Kxg2 and I'm up a whole rook!). His Bf1 is still under attack, forcing him to move it with say 21....Bh3, allowing me to simplify via 22. Nxf6+! and all hope is lost for Black.

The game continued ... **20.. fxg6 21. Bxg6** (White is now up a pawn) **Kg7 22. Be4 Rac8 23. Bf5 Rcd8 24. Be6** (blocking the advance of the e-pawn) **Nb6 25. Rf3 Rh8 26. Rg3+ Kf8 27. Bh6+!?** (hanging the bishop, hoping for Rxh6?? 28.Rxg8 mate) **Ke8 28. Bg7 Bxg7 29. Rxg7 Nd5** (threatening both Ne3 and Nf4+) **30. Bxd5 Rxd5 31. Re1 Rd7 32. Re5 Rb7 33. d5?** (White may have a better move here, but was in time pressure. It is a passed pawn and White tries to take advantage of black's passive, overloaded the rook on b7. Maybe 33. Kg3 and advancing the h-pawn was a better plan. At this point, White is a pawn up and has all the activity and good rook placement and Black is passively defending. It's hard to believe there is no win here).

33... Kf8 34. Reg5 Rh6 35. Rg8+ Kf7 36. R5g7+ Kf6 37. d6 a6 38. dxe7 Rxe7 39. Rxe7 Kxe7 40. Rg7+ Kf6 41. Ra7 Kf5 42. Rf7 Kg4 43. h3+ (the final trap. If 43....Rxh3 44. Rg7+ Kh4 45. Rh7+ winning black's rook) **Kh4 44.Rg7 Rd6 45. Rg4+ Kh5 46. Rd4 Rf6 and the game was eventually drawn after 68 moves.**

David Jenkins with daughters **Megan** (background) and **Katlyn** in the (foreground) during a Denver vacation a couple of years ago.

The rare Bird!

by

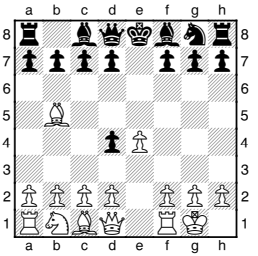
Alex Golubow

If you play the most common double e-pawn opening for Black it's most likely that you will be met with Ruy Lopez. As you might remember, I've been quoting a lot from GM Sveshnikov's lecture in my previous article "The Counter Scotch", where he says that 3.Bb5 is considered by many to be the strongest move after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6. He also states that playing Ruy Lopez requires a lot of knowledge... Accordingly, the Ruy Lopez has the most developed opening theory, the analysis going in some variations up to 28th and 30th move!...

Now again, it would give me little pleasure, if at all, to execute someone else's 30 moves in an actual game, however right they might be. I want to play the game myself!

So, how does one cope with Ruy Lopez playing Black?! My answer is the Bird Defense! It's such a rare bird in tournaments at all levels that when you play it, you cut off 90% of your opponents' preparation for the game. Most of them do not remember anything beyond the move 5.0-0, just because they hardly ever had a chance to play against this defense in a real game...

It makes sense to look more closely at the position after **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4!** (this move defines the Bird's variation) **4.Nxd4 ed 5.0-0... (Diagram)**



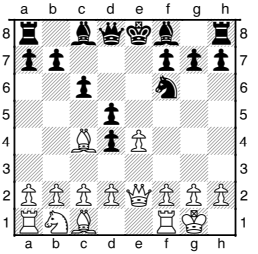
This is the main line recommended by theory...

At first glance, it looks like White can hardly dream of any better position after a few opening moves. White fully developed his King side, he already has castled his King and has a developed piece in the field. While Black has none of developed pieces in the field and is far from castling. Moreover, the pawn on d4 looks more like a liability than an asset for Black…

On the other hand; this position is a good example of how deceitful the first impression could be. White has isolated his King from his other pieces and locked him in a "mousetrap" (that's what I call an early castling!). And White's Queen side is still in a virgin state. White has exchanged his best attacker/defender - the kingside Knight for the little relevant at this point of time queenside Knight of Black. Thus, making White's notorious "Spanish Bishop" much less dangerous without support of the kingside Knight.

They say that the ex World Chess Vice-Champion Bronstein says in his book "200 Open Games" that the main reason that Black loses in open games is that he fails to bring his queenside pieces into defense. And here we have White's attacking kingside Knight exchanged for the queenside Knight of Black - double whammy!...

Isn't all this simply too high price to pay for the mere sake of developing?! In my opinion, it is! But in order to prove this Black has to make a couple of precise moves, since every tempo is important now. The position is very unbalanced and Black's strategy must be trying to convert this to his advantage. Black cannot afford to give White an opportunity to develop his pieces, so he plays the forcing **5...c6**, recommended by the modern theory. **6.Bc4...** occupying the main attacking diagonal for White's Bishop. But this is not that dangerous for Black anymore due to lack of White's kingside Knight. **6...Nf6!** Now 7.e5... is premature here, Black counters with 7...d5! and gets a convenient play. And every other conceivable White's move, like 7.d3, c3, f4, Re1, Qf3 or **7.Qe2...** is answered with **7...d5!!** (Diagram)



Position after 7... d5!!

This is the key move for the main line of Bird's defense, which I propose here!...

I've got interested in Bird Defense recently after seeing the game Y. Geller - R. Kholmov played in the 17th U.S.S.R Championship, 1949 (incidentally, the year of my birth), in which White had played 7.Qe2... and Black answered ...d6, winning eventually in the long battle, although Black had to sacrifice a pawn to finish the development of his pieces.

But in a couple of my first games with this defense White played 7.Re1... and 7.d3... In both games I followed in footsteps of that game, played 7...d6 and eventually lost.

Only later on in home analysis I've found out that 7...d5!! was the best move in all three games! 7...d6?! is a defensive move, which grants White a much needed tempo to develop his pieces, whereas 7...d5!! is a forcing move, compelling White to react to an immediate threat!...

The position after 7...d5!! may look dangerous for Black but, in fact, it's even more dangerous for White since he doesn't have time to bring his queenside pieces into play and without them his attack is feeble. At the same time his isolated King is very vulnerable, almost begging for his execution... Of course, Black has to be careful to find the next several exact moves. But if he does that then he is by no means worse in the ensuing game and has better chances for an attack...

Let's look, for example, how the Geller-Kholmov game might have been continued: 7... d5!! 8.ed+ Be7 9.dc 0-0 10.cb Bxb7 11.d3 Qc7 (later on, analyzing the line suggested by GM A. Khalifman, you'll see it below, I've found a better move here - 11... Qd6!)12.Bg5 Be3 13.h3 Qc6 and I would prefer Black here. And, if 9.Re1... then the plan utilized by R. Kholmov is still valid here - 9... b5! 10.Bb3 a5 11.a4 Ra7! 12.dc 0-0 13.ab Bd6 14.Qc4?! Re8 15.Rxe8+(15.Rf1?! Rae7!...) Qxe8 16.b6 Ba6!...

Of course, Geller would have had played smarter than that; I have showed you these most obvious variations just to whet your appetite for Bird Defense. And again, I'm reluctant to give here any further variations for the same reason I had stated in my previous article, namely, you must do your share of work if you are going to make Bird Defense your weapon of choice against Ruy Lopez. You must do this in

order to get better feeling of the position and what it calls for, to gain confidence in it.

Besides, it is literally impossible to give all the variations after the 7th move. Chess is too deep and complex game for human mind. At the first move there are 20 possible moves for each side. At the second the number of possible positions is 400. After the third move we have 5362 positions, and after the fourth the number is 71852. There are estimations of the number of positions after the 5th and the 6th moves. They are 809798 and 9132484 respectively (http://mathematics.chessdom.com/number-of-positions). Nobody has yet estimated the number after the 7th move!...

Of course, someone with a chess engine may invest some time and find a suitable continuation for White (I'm sure, there is one there); that's how theory is developed. But, in the meantime, you may win plenty of games catching your opponents unawares with Bird Defense and the move 7... d5!!, in particular. They will have to work hard at the board, while you will have an advantage of home preparation...

Of course, I lack the necessary qualifications to prove this conclusively but, after having done some research and analysis of the Bird Defense I consider it the most promising defense nowadays against Ruy Lopez due to the factors stated above and the fact that the theory of this opening is relatively undeveloped.

Unfortunately, Bird himself contributed to the unpopularity of his opening variation playing a dubious move; repercussions of which we are seeing in our days. Thus, there are six known games of Bird played between years 1878 and 1889 in which he played 5...h5?! duly losing 5 of them and accidentally winning one, since this move is completely out of whack with the demands of the position, it lets White out of his predicament.

Nevertheless, nowadays GM Khalifman in his book "Opening repertoire for White according to Anand" finds the move 5...h5 quite interesting - to wait for White's intentions(?), prepare a possible Nf6-g4 and keep White's Queen off h5 square...

It all sounds good in an abstract theory but never forget the old saying that the road to hell is paved with good intentions!... GM Leko (rated 2700+) duly won the game as White from GM Morozevich (2700+) in 2002 in which the 5...h5?! was played.

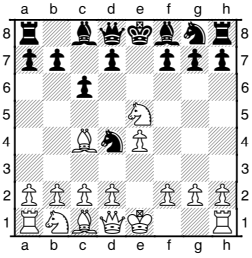
IM John Watson also treated the move favorably in his comments on the same game, liking the idea of ...Nh7 later on in the game, exploiting the square vacated by ...h5. With all due respect for John Watson and his title I dare not to agree with him in this particular case. Although, in general case, early flank pawn advance fits good into the modern theory propagated in his books.

I'd like to conclude with the curious example of what may happen if White decides to save his kingside Knight and use it for an attack instead. In the actual game it was Ruy Lopez in reverse, as I was playing White and opened the game with 1.a4!... But since this move is irrelevant to what followed and in order to not confuse the readers further I will present the game as if I was playing Black:

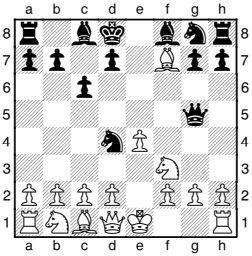
2010 Great Plains Open, Blair, NE, May 01, 2010, G75+5s
(To not embarrass my opponent in any way I withdrew his name)

NN- Alex Golubow

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 c6 5.Nxe5?(Nxd4!...) **(Diagram)**



White takes the poisonous pawn and is doomed to lose a piece or worse...
5...Qg5! 6.Bxf7!? Kd8! 7.Nf3??(Ng4!?...) **(Diagram)**



With this move White manages both, losing a piece and getting a hopeless position. **7...Qxg2 8.Nxd4 Qxh1+ 9.Ke2 Qxe4+ 10.Kf1 Qxd4 11.d3 Qf6 12.Bb3 Bc5 13.Qe2 d5 14.Nd2 Bh3+ 15.Ke1 Nh6 16.Kd1 Re8 17.Qh5 Bg4+...** White resigns.

I had spent about 5 minutes for the whole game since I knew the trap. Whilst my opponent had spent more than 50 minutes trying to extricate himself from it but to no avail...

06.23.10

I've sent what I had written so far to GM A. Khalifman to see if he would change his mind about the move 5... h5 after reading my article...

He replied rather ambiguously that calling the move "interesting" means literally just that, i.e., that the move is unusual but that doesn't mean that he approves it. He also wished my critic of this Bird's move should be supplemented with some lines and variations supporting it. My argument is that the sheer statistics of games played by Bird with this move speaks for itself best. Everybody can find these games on the Internet, view them over and decide for himself where did Bird go wrong. I've done just that before voicing my opinion.

As for the mainline theory of Bird's variation and the move 7... d5, he said that the strongest move for White in the position after 6... Nf6 is 7.Re1! and this move is also mentioned in his book "Opening repertoire..." and I should have paid more attention to it in my article...

Now, whether this move was proposed by Anand or Khalifman himself I cannot tell since I've never read the book (somebody had quoted from the book on the Internet that GM Khalifman finds the move 5... h5 interesting...).

But, now is the time to consider the move 7.Re1, for Khalifman suggested a line how the play might continue after 7.Re1 d5 - 8.exd5+ Be7 9.dxc6 o-o 10.cxb7 Bxb7 11.d3 Bd6... giving the verdict that, in his opinion, Black doesn't have enough compensation for two pawns he'd sacrificed...

And that verdict would have been right..., except that 11... Bd6!? isn't the best move in the position, although it looks natural and appealing. And the strongest move here is 11... Qd6!, after which it's hard to find a good continuation for White; Black is domineering all over the board!

For example, after the natural 12.Bg5(12.Bf4?! Qxf4 13.Rxe7? Ng4! 14.Rxb7 Qxh2+ 15.Kf1 Qh1+ 16.Ke2 Rae1+... and White loses his Queen or gets checkmated) Bd8! 13.Bxf6 gxf6! 14.Qg4+ Kh8 15.Qh5 Bc7! 16.Bxf7? Rxf7! 17.Qxf7??... White gets forced checkmate! 17... Qxh2+ 18.Kf1 Qxg2+ 19.Ke2 Bf3+ 20.Kd2 Qxf2+ 21.Kc1 Bf4+ 22.Nd2 Qxd2+ 23.Kb1 Qxe1#

And other continuations after 15... Bc7! do not look promising for White, either. Say, 16.g3?! f5!(Rg8?!) 17.Bxf7 Rg5... (17.Qxf7 Qc6! 18.f3 Rg7 19.Qh5 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Rxg3+ 21.Kh2 Rg5 22Qh4 Qd6+ 23.Kh1 Qe5!...) Or, 16.Nd2 Rg8(f5!?...) 17.Nf3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qxh2+ 19.Kf1 Qh1+ 20.Ke2 Rae8+ 21.Kd2 Qh6+ 22.Kd1 Rxe1+ 23.Kxe1 Re8+ 24.Kd1 Ba5... and White's position is hopeless.

It seems to me, White's biggest mistake was move 10.cxb7?, losing the precious tempo and helping Black to develop his Bishop onto an excellent striking position. Though, looking back after the analysis, his next move 11.d3... looks questionable, too; since it cuts off his white square Bishop from helping his King...

Moreover, I would dare to question even the move 7.Re1 itself, whether it is the strongest move in the position for two reasons: 1) one and the same piece is moved twice in the opening stage, 2) the precious tempo was spent to move the kingside piece once more, while the Queen side, which is in dire need of development was left in a pristine stage.

What I'd like to stress here once more is that when I said earlier in the article that Black has to be careful to find the next several exact moves after the 7... d5!! I meant moves like 11... Qd6! 12... Bd8! 13... gxf6! 15... Bc7! 16... Rg8!, which is not an easy task to do in a real game. And they will vary with different White's moves I had not mentioned.

But if one fails to find them it's nobody's fault but his. The position is pregnant with such moves; they are all in there after the move 7... d5!! All one has to do is to find them!...

07.01.10

Well, I sent my analysis to Khalifman in a couple of days after receiving his e-mail with the line suggested but, strangely enough, never heard from him on the subject since. Although, he answered my two subsequent e-mails related to the "Counter Scotch" article... My guess would be that he trusted a chess engine suggesting him the line without bothering much to consider the position himself...

So, I decided to send the draft of my article to Alexei Shirov in the vain hope that it might be useful to him. He replied that before loading the position onto his Deep Rybka 4 engine he would bring forward the following line: 7.Re1 d5 8.exd5+ Be7 9.Qe2... (to prevent castling), and if 9... cxd5, then 10.Bb5+ Kf8 11.d3... and, in his opinion, White is better here because of the week pawn of Black at the d4 square...

I pointed out to him the plan utilized by R. Kholmov in his game with Y. Geller, which he apparently overlooked reading my article - 9... b5! (instead of 9... cxd5) 10.Bb3 a5 11.a4 Ra7! 12.dc 0-0 13.ab Bd6 14.Qc4?! Re8 15.Rxe8+(15.Rf1?! Rae7!...) Qxe8 16.b6 Ba6!... but for the same mysterious reason (as with Khalifman) haven't heard from him since...

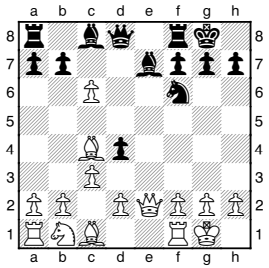
Perhaps, I should had not explained to him that this variation is not about pawns; Black may readily sacrifice two and even three pawns in order to organize a deadly attack on White's weakened King. Some learned men are sensitive to hear that sort of explanation from a layman... I'm sorry, if that's the case.

Meanwhile, I've had an excellent opportunity to test the move 7... d5!! in a real game at the last round of the last tournament but failed most miserably, being tired and in no good mood for chess. Suffice it to say that I had spent less than a minute for the first 9 moves, had five minutes spent after the 12th move, when I made a serious blunder and had overall 15 minutes spent for the whole game when I resigned on 24th move...

Yet, I would show you this game rather as a good example of how *not* to play the line that I was suggesting...

Cornhusker State Games, 06.27.10 G75/40 + 30m
Hartmann, John (1670) - Golubow Alex (1374)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 c6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Qe2 d5!! 8.exd5+ Be7 9.dxc6 0-0 10.c3! (Diagram)



This move is better than 10.cxb7?! but I haven't analyzed it so far and played the first move that appealed to me without much thinking **10... Bg4?!** This is a pseudo active move. While it develops a piece and attacks the Queen, it contributes nothing to the main objective of Black, namely, to concentrate on the attack of White's weakened King and actually helps White with an extra tempo! Better was 10... Re8! 11.Qf3 Bg4 12.Qd3 Bd6 13.cd Be2 14.Qb3 Re7(Qc7 15.Bxe2 Qxe2 16.Nc3 Bxh2+!...) 15.Re1 Qe8 16.Bxe2 Rxe2 17.Rxe2 Qxe2 18.g3 Ng4!...) **11.f3 Bc5?!**(Bh5!?...) **12.Kh1 Bf5?**(Re8!...) **13.Qe5! Bxb1 14.Qxc5 Bc2 15.cxb7 Rb8 16.Qxd4 Qc7 17.d3 Rbd8 18.Qxa7 Qe5 19.Bd2 Qe2 20.Rf2 Qxf2 21.Qxf2 Bxd3 22.Bxd3 Rxd3 23.Qe2 Rfd8 24.Qxd3**... **1-0**

What I've learned from this game was that I'm definitely not a super genius to play that fast in a serious game but rather an idiot, who cannot learn from his mistakes and repeats them again and again. I can concentrate on an analysis of a game, which I undertake only whenever I'm up to it; but I have difficulties concentrating in a real game, which I *have* to play, whether I like it or not. In other words, I lack motivation and that's something that has to do with age (health?...), I guess. One just doesn't care enough to win a game anymore... After all, it's only a game and to take it too seriously seems to me ridiculous, lately. As Shakespeare has it - "there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy..."

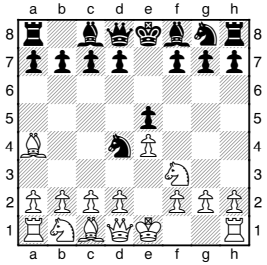
The ex World Chess Champion Boris Spassky, when asked recently why he doesn't play in tournaments anymore, said: "...to play in

tournaments it's necessary that your hands should be itching to "kill" every opponent; but now I don't want to win anymore. If I win it doesn't bring me any joy. But I don't like to lose, either; and to make draws all the time is boring..." I can hear him now.

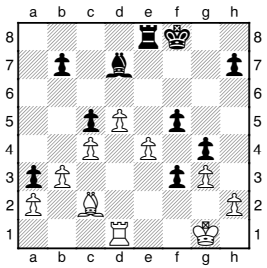
I played a better game in Bird Defense at the first round. While I was fresh I've managed to put up a good fight, though my opponent played 4.Ba4, which I haven't studied so far. I was able to find better moves in this game but when I felt that I was winning the game I became overconfident and started playing too fast until I missed the right continuation on move 35..., after which it was all over again for me...

Cornhusker State Games, 06.26.10 G75/40 + 30m
Given, Douglas (1776) - Golubow Alex (1374)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Ba4!? (Diagram)



Maybe, this is the way to go to prevent 7... d5!!... ? **4... c6**(b5!?...) **5.c3 Nxf3 6.Qxf3 Qf6 7Qe3 Nh6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.d3 Bc7 10.Qg3 0-0 11.Bg5 Qg6 12.Bb3 a5 13.Nd2 a4 14.Bc2 d5 15.Nf3 f6 16.Bxh6 Qxh6**(gh!?...)**17.d4 dxe4?!**(Qf4!?...) **18.Bxe4 Qf4 19.Qxf4 exf4 20.c4 g5 21.b3 g4 22.Nd2 Ba5 23.Rad1 a3?!**(Re8!?...) **24.d5 c5?!**(f5!?...) **25.Bc2 f5 26.Rfe1 Bc3 27.Re7 Rf7?!**(b6!?... or Bf6!?...) **28.Re8+ Rf8 29.Rxf8 Kxf8 30.Nf1 Bd4 31.g3 f3 32.Ne3 Bxe3 33.fxe3 Bd7 34.e4. Re8?**(fxe4!...) **(Diagram)**



35.Re1 Kf7??(fxe4!...) **36.e5 Bc8 37.e6+ Kf6 38.Kf2 b6 39.Bd3 h5 40.h3 gxh3 41.Kxf3 Rg1 42.Rh1 Rg5?!**(Rg4!?...) **43.Rxh3 Ke5 44.Rh4 Kf6 45.Kf4 Kg6 46.Be2 Kh6 47.Rxh5+ Rxh5 48.Bxh5 Kxh5 49.Kxf5 Kh6 50.Kf6... 0-1**

07.22.10

I presume that many may find my analysis and variations given after move 7... d5!! incomplete and unconvincing. But, at the end, they prove little, since at every move White may play differently; except, that Black has an ample counter play for pawns sacrificed. In particular, the lines show well how easily even the top GM's may take false leads after this startling move - one trusting an engine, I'd guess, and the other his own judgment - and go astray in a virtual game...

And without a serious mistake by one of the sides chess game is a draw with a big margin of safety, asserts GM A. Grishchuk (currently number seven in the World rating list).

It would be a small exaggeration to say that one may explore the position after move 7... d5!! for the rest of his life and never come to the ultimate truth. I doubt it that even chess engines may solve it adequately. But there is no doubt that the position leads to a very sharp, complicated game, rich with tactical possibilities, in which the probability of mistake by either side is very high. And that's where your home preparation may give you some advantage over an unprepared opponent. Although, this is the case, generally speaking, with every chess position - the more you study it, the more truth it reveals to you about itself...

So, there is no easy way in Chess, just as in Life...

Dixi,

Alex

Future Icon vs. Present Icon

Joseph W (left) and John Watson sit down to analyze a game.

Joseph W (left) **the (2010 Player of the Year) vs. Kent Nelson the (POY Runner-Up) play to a draw during the Midwest Open.**

Photos courtesy of Joseph's dad.

Special thanks to POY Coordinator Ben Ryan for providing the Gambit this information-Ed										
2010 Player of the Year-Final Standings										
No	**Name**	**4/10/10**	**5/1/10**	**6/26/10**	**8/7/10**	**10/9/10**	**11/13/10**	**Points**	**Events**	**Result**
1	**Joseph Wan**	**4**	**2.5**	**2**	**2.5**	**3**	**2.5**	**16.5**	**6**	**1st POY**
2	**Kent Nelson**	**2**	**2.5**	**2.5**		**2.5**	**2.5**	**12**	**5**	**2nd POY**
3	**Alex Golubow**	**2.5**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**1.5**	**2**	**12**	**6**	**1st Reserve**
4	**John Herr**	**3.5**	**3**		**3**		**2**	**11.5**	**4**	**1st Class B**
5	**Gary Marks**	**2**	**1.5**	**2**	**3**		**2..5**	**11**	**5**	
6	**Tim Leacock**	**3.5**	**2**			**2.5**	**2.5**	**10.5**	**4**	
7	**Chad Forsman**	**1.5**		**3**	**3.5**	**0.5**	**2**	**10.5**	**5**	
8	**Brandon Li**	**3**	**1**		**2.5**	**1.5**	**2**	**10**	**5**	**1st Junior**
9	**Douglas Given**		**3**	**3,5**	**2.5**			**9**	**3**	
10	**Jeff Solheim**	**2**	**2.5**	**3**			**1**	**8.5**	**4**	
11	**Cletus Roth**		**2**			**2**	**1**	**5**	**3**	
12	**David Given**		**2.**		**2**		**0.5**	**4.5**	**3**	

2010 CORPORATE TEAM CHESS CHALLENGE

(by Robert Woodworth)

On Saturday, November 20th, 2010, the Omaha Chess Community, Inc., which is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit, sponsored the 1st Corporate Team Chess Challenge tournament. It was held in conjunction with the 10th Annual Omaha Central High School Chess Tourney.

There were 3 teams entered in this 'first-of-a-kind' Team Challenge Chess Tournament. The chess teams were: Creighton Univ., Bellevue Chess Club & the Camelot Chess Club of Omaha. (The entry fee per team was $40.00 and which included complimentary soft-drinks & pizza.)

Each team was required to have a minimum of 4 players with a maximum of 8 players. Each player would play 4 games in a "Swiss System" format with a time control of G/30. Team scores were calculated by summing the top 4 individual scores from each team. (Trophies were awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place finishers.)

The tournament organizers/directors were: Drew Thyden, Bobbi Jo Shiu, Mike Gooch & Jeff Solheim. (As a side note: Jeff Solheim did a great job in making the pairings between teams and starting each round on schedule. A big 'THANK YOU' to Jeff as well as everyone else involved!!)

The final, official results were:

1st Place - **Camelot** Chess Club of Omaha 10.5 points.

2nd Place - **Creighton** University Chess Club 9.5 points

3rd Place - **Bellevue**, NE Chess Club 8.5 points

The top 4 scorers for each team were:

Camelot: Richard Chess – 3.0 points

Roger Anderson – 3.0 points

Robert Woodworth – 2.5 points

Kevin Hruska - 2 points

Creighton: John Herr – 3.0 points

Ryan Borchers – 3.0 points

John Baltaro – 2.5 points

Nate Holman – 1 point

Bellevue: Gary Brown – 2.5 points

Joe Knapp - 2.5 points

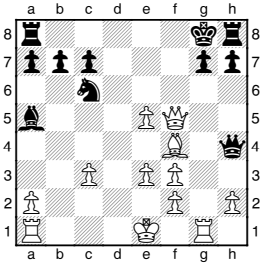
Eli Missak – 2.0 points

Tim Brown – 1.5 points

The following is a last round game by your writer. (It became a wide-open, tactical Q.P. game. It was called a draw since each side did not desire to score zero points here since the team standings after three rounds were extremely close!)

WHITE (R.Woodworth) BLACK (Gary Brown)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 Nf6 (Normal is 3…Bg4) **4.e3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.c4** (6 Be2 is better) **e6 7.Bd3 Bb4+** (Best since White isn't castled yet.) **8.Nc3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5** (Ne4 is better) **10.dxe5 Ne4 11.Qc2 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nxc3** (ruining White's entire pawn structure) **13.bxc3 Ba5 14.Rg1 Qh4 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Qf5+ Kg8** (if .Ke8 then.R:g7!) **17.Qe6+ Kf8 18.Qf5+ Kg8** 1/2-1/2 Please see diagram on the next page.



Final Position

There could be a win for White in the final position. Maybe a reader can find a winning continuation here? (Note: A possible try here is 19. Ke2 intending 20. Rxg7+ followed by 21. Rg1+ etc. but Black has 19. Qe7 to defend the position.) Whoever said that Queen Pawn openings are "too dry & positional"versus the King Pawn openings??

As a final comment, our Camelot Chess Team really enjoyed meeting and competing with every chessplayer from all the teams! We plan to defend our title next year & sincerely hope that more corporate chess teams get involved.

(Corporate team chess is an exciting idea and could even be expanded into a chess league with team play in & between the Omaha & Lincoln areas.)

Robert Woodworth
November. 2010
(Omaha, NE)

THE 'LIVES' OF THE CHESS PIECES IN OUR GAMES

(by Robert Woodworth)

The above title of this article will seem strange to the general chessplayer and can raise the question "do the chess pieces really have a life???" Your writer recently thought of this concept by examining some chess games and how individual chessmen were involved & how these pieces actually fared when confronting the opposing army. Some of the chess pieces had an active & noble 'life', some were sacrificed for the common good and some were even victorious and lived to see the end (resignation or checkmate or even a draw.) Some were trapped and died (captured) while others worked very well together as a unit. Some were never utilized to their full potential while others were given the tough & gritty job of holding the position together. Even the defensive pawns in front of the castled king were the 'unsung heroes' in many a chess game!!

I believe that I first realized that chess pieces do have a representative-type of a so called "life" from the photographs of actual live chess games played with real people as actors dressed-up as chess pieces in the appropriate costumes on a large, outdoor chessboard setup as a stage. So, therefore I thought maybe I should more closely examine how the chess pieces in my games contribute to the final outcome and are they more than just inanimate objects to be moved around the chessboard!

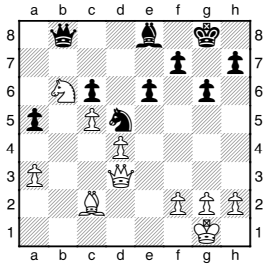
Now we really know that the chess pieces in our games are only representations of members of the forces/armies we direct as we play the game. But still, using this concept of relating to our chess pieces in a 'life' way, we can better understand how to manage our forces as a total, healthy army in a game of chess. (The concept of looking for one's worst positioned piece and improving its' position is related to helping those pieces with poor 'life' prospects.)

Next, is an example from a recent off-hand game your writer played & after the game the next day, the concept of how my opponents pieces 'lived out' their supposed 'life' on the chessboard, was I better able to understand how I became victorious & why my opponent's endgame was difficult for him to play. During the actual game, I made my moves by pattern recognition plus looking for simple tactics but never realizing why I was being successful. (The 'quality of life' experienced by my opponent's queen's bishop made a tremendous difference in the outcome as I eventually came to realize!!)

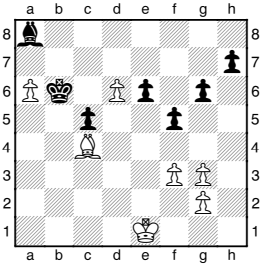
Following is the game score from that informal game played at our local Camelot Chess Club here in Omaha. Your writer's opponent was Mr. Roger Anderson (a former Omaha City Champion) who had the Black forces:

White: (your writer) Black: (Roger Anderson)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Bc4 d5 (if 2..N:e4 then 3 B:f7+ 3...K:f7 4 Qh5+, g6 5.Qd5+ regaining the piece.) 3**.exd5 Nxd5 4.Qf3 e6 5.Ne2 Be7 6.Nbc3 c6 7.0-0 Nd7 8.d4 N7f6 9.Bg5 Bd7 10.Rfe1 a5 11.a3 b5 12.Bd3 b4 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.c4 bxc3 16.bxc3 0-0 17.Rab1 Rab8 18.c4 Nf6 19.Bc2 Qd6 20.c5 Qc7 21.Nc3 Rxb1 22.Rxb1 Rb8 23.Rxb8+ Qxb8** (the 'lives' of all 4 rooks were very, very short in this game!) **24.Na4 Nd5 25.Qd3 g6 26.Nb6 Be8**



(a passive move for a lifeless bishop, if instead 26...N:b6 then 27 Qb3 etc.) **27.Qg3 Qxg3 28.hxg3 Nc3 29.Kf1 Nb5 30.Nc4 Nxd4 31.Bd1 Nb5 32.a4 Nc3 33.Bc2 Kf8 34.Nxa5 Ke7 35.Nc4 Kd8 36.a5 Nb5 37.a6 Kc7 38.Nd6 Nxd6 39.cxd6+ Kb6** (white's two advanced pawns are aggressive and full of potential!) **40.Bd3 c5 41.f3 Bc6 42.Ke1 f5 43.Bc4 Ba8?**



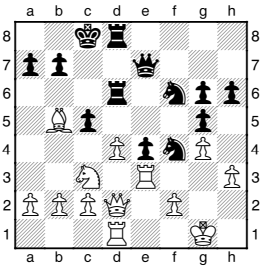
(now this bishop has no real future!) **44.Bxe6 Kc6 45.Bd5+** Black Resigns (1-0) for if: 45. K:d5 then 46. d7 wins.

Now, by looking at how the 'life' of Black's Queen's Bishop unfolded, we can see that his very passive movement actually led to Black's defeat. Also, on the other side, White's 2 advanced pawns vigorously led to White's victory.

Next, is another informal game played at our Camelot Chess Club here in Omaha, which illustrates the 'life' of a lowly pawn being developed to the absolute ultimate!! (It would be difficult to find a more dynamic pawn!)

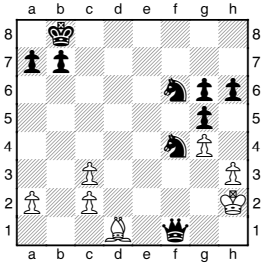
WHITE (W. Thompson) BLACK (your writer)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 (the Elephant gambit) **3.exd5 Bg4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.d3 Bd6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Qe7 10.h3 Bh5 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.Re1 Nb6 13.d4 e4 14.Bxd6 Rxd6 15.g4 Bg6 16.Ne5 Nbxd5 17.Nxg6 fxg6 18.Qd2 Nf4 19.Re3 Rhd8 20.Rd1 c5**



(now the "life" of this pawn begins) 21.**Qe1 cxd4** (1st capture & an identity change from a c-pawn to an d-pawn.) **22.Nxe4 dxe3** (now a d-pawn to an e-pawn.) **23.Nxd6+ Rxd6 24.Qc3+ Kb8 25.Bd3 exf2+** (now e-pawn to an f-pawn!) **26.Kh2 Qe3 27.Be2 Qxc3 28.bxc3 Rxd1 29.Bxd1**

f1Q (and a glorious promotion for the original c-pawn which now leads to checkmate in 2 moves.)



In conclusion, I hope that the reader doesn't think that I've 'lost my mind' with this idea of a 'life' for the chess pieces but can use this concept to better appreciate the inner relationships & developments of all the pieces/pawns on the chessboard.
By identifying those specific chess pieces (& pawns) and how they each contribute to the outcome of the game (their 'lives'), can we better understand our victories and also why we suffer those defeats!!

Robert Woodworth
November, 2010
(Omaha, NE)

Tournament Life

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at
NSCA.Nechess.com

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact Ben Ryan at
ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com to schedule a date.

USCF Rated Quads

January 15, 2011

Cash Prizes & Free Chess Lecture

IM John Watson will be providing a 2 hour chess lecture after the tournament. Free entry to everyone playing in the tournament. Please submit one or two of your chess games *(this event or previous games)* for possible review.

Round 1 of the Corus 2011 International Chess Tournament will also be displayed live during the morning.

DETAILS:

EF: $20 if payment received by 1/13, else $25 **Prizes:** 1st $30, 2nd $15 *(ties split prizes)* **Time Control:** G60 **3 Round Quad:** 10:00, 12:30, 2:45 *(30 min. break after 1st & 3rd rounds)* **Chess Lecture:** 5:30-7:30 **REGISTRATION:** 9:00am – 9:45am **EQUIPMENT**: Bring Clocks, Sets and Boards. Limited availability onsite. **SITE:** C.U. Harper Center Room 3027 590 N 20th St Omaha, NE 68102 **PARKING:** Free parking in lot. **Future Tournaments: 2/5** Feb Plus Score**,**

USCF membership required or USCF Registration Available on site.

ENTRIES TO: Ben Ryan 4423 Frederick St. Omaha, NE 68105

Questions: ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com or 402.452.7686 Checks payable to Ben Ryan.

Rated Beginners Open XVI

January 15, 2011

A Play for Pieces Event

Chess tournament limited to those players with **a rating of less than 1200 or Unrated/New Members**. This tournament is designed to give beginning players a chance to compete with other players of their own skill level.

This tournament will also be a ***"Play for Pieces"*** event. Enrollment in the ***"Play for Pieces"*** program is free to all players U1200. All players that request enrollment will receive a ***"Play for Pieces"*** punch card. Compete in 6 ***"Play for Pieces"*** events, receiving one punch per event, and you will receive a regulation tournament triple-weighted chess set, board and bag.

IM John Watson will be providing a 2 hour chess lecture after the tournament. Free entry to everyone playing in the tournament. $5 entry for parents.

DETAILS:

EF: $15 paid by 1/13, else $20 **Prizes:** Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1st U800, 2nd U800**. Time Control:** G30

6 Round Swiss: 10:00, 11:15, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45 *(break after 2nd Round)* **Chess Lecture:** 5:30-7:30
REGISTRATION: 9:00am – 9:45am **SITE:** C.U. Harper Center Room 3029 602 N 20th St Omaha, NE 68102 **PARKING:** Free parking in lot. **Future Tournaments: 2/5 –** RBO XVII

USCF membership required and available on site.

ENTRIES To: Ben Ryan 4423 Frederick St. Omaha, NE 68105

Questions: ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com or 402.452.7686 Checks payable to Ben Ryan.

Tournament Life Summary

For more information, please visit the NSCA web site at **NSCA.Nechess.com**

Interested in scheduling a tournament? Please contact Ben Ryan at **ben.j.ryan@hotmail.com** to schedule a date.

Date	Event	Location	Sections
January 15th 2011	**January Swiss**	**Omaha**	**POY Rated open**
January 22nd 2011	**St. Patrick's Tournament**	**Elkhorn**	**Non-rated K-12**
February 5th 2011	**February Plus Score**	**Omaha**	**POY rated open**
February 12th 2011	**State Scholastic Team Tournament**	**Boys Town**	**K-3, K-6, K-9**
TBA	**State Scholastic Individual Tournaments**	**TBA**	**K-3, K-6, K-8, K-12**
Postponed Date TBA	**2010 Lincoln City Championship**	**Lincoln**	**Rated Open (top Lincoln resident takes city title)**
March 5th 2010	**State High School Team Championship**	**Omaha**	**Rated and non-rated high school**
March 12th 2011	**Morton Middle School Tournament**	**Omaha**	**Non-rated grades 2-8**

The Gambit c/o Kent Nelson

4014 “N “ St. Lincoln, NE

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